

A detailed manga-style illustration serves as the background for the cover. It depicts two young women with long, dark hair, their faces close together in a tender, intimate pose. They are surrounded by a dense, swirling mass of dark, hair-like strands that form a cocoon-like structure. The color palette is dominated by soft pinks, purples, and dark greys, creating a dreamlike and ethereal atmosphere. The art style is characteristic of late 20th-century Japanese manga, with fine lines and soft shading.

Yuriko Hara

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*Cocoon
Entwined*

Cocoon
Entwined
1

Yuriko Hara

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SAY,
HAVE YOU
EVER HEARD
A UNIFORM
BREATHE?



...OR
WHEN
ITS SKIRT
FLUTTERS
IN THE
WIND...



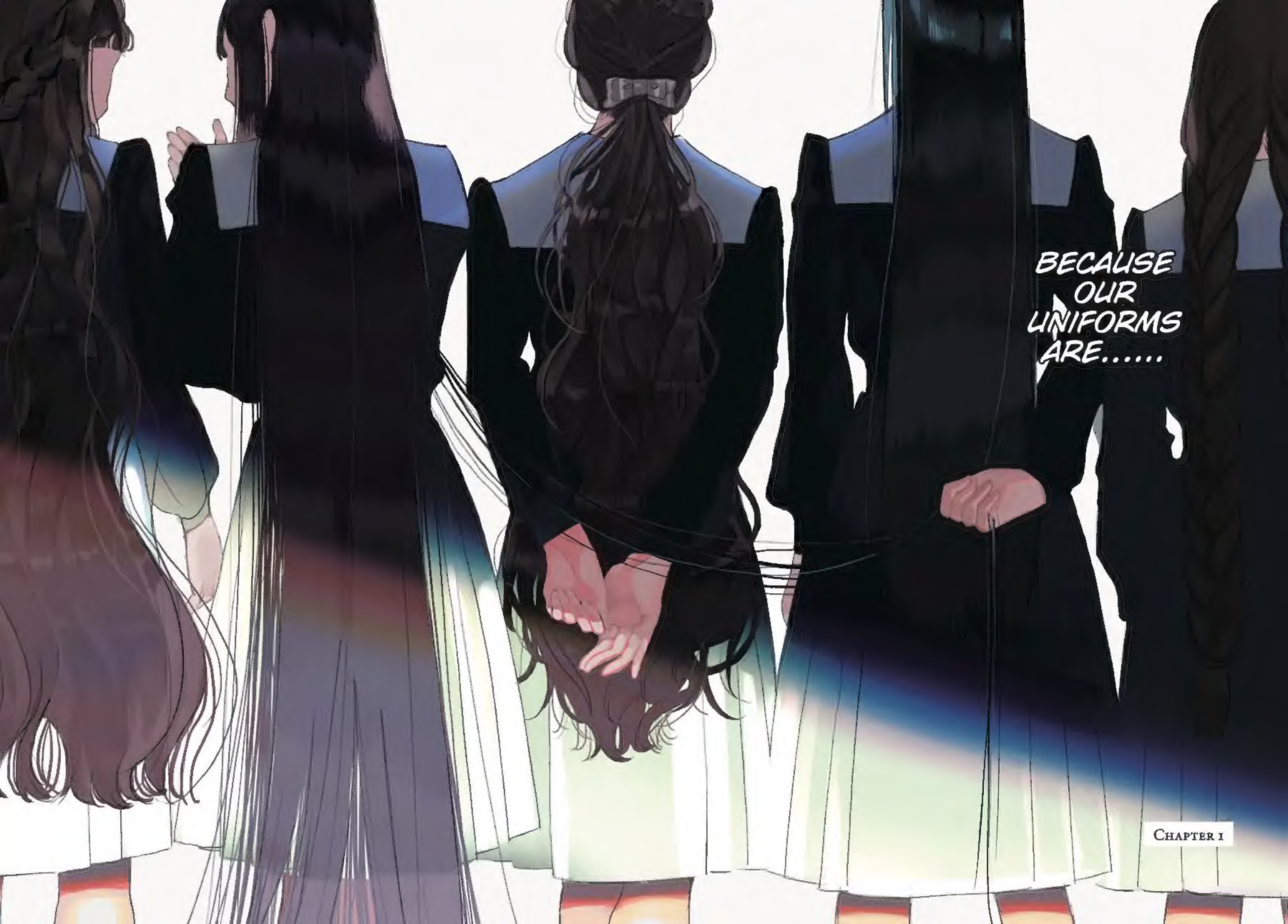
...OR
CLIP
ON THE
SCHOOL
BADGE...



FOR
INSTANCE,
WHEN
YOU SLIP
THROUGH
ITS
SLEEVES...

BUT
YOU KNOW
WHAT? AT
THIS HIGH
SCHOOL, IT
ACTUALLY
HAPPENS.

YOU
THINK I'M
BEING
SILLY,
DON'T
YOU?



BECAUSE
OUR
UNIFORMS
ARE.....



SIGN: HOSHIMIYA ACADEMY



TWO
HOURS FROM
THE CITY BY
TRAIN, YOU'LL
SEE TWO BIG
WHITE OAK
TREES THAT
MAKE IT
APPEAR
AS IF THE
FOREST
HAS TWO
HATS ON.

THEREIN
LIES OUR
HOSHIMIYA
GIRLS'
ACADEMY.

A
SMALL PATH
UNFOLDS
UNDER THE
WHITE OAKS'
WATCH...

...LEADING
INTO A
FOREST
DENSE
ENOUGH
TO HIDE A
SECRET
PARADISE.





I SUSPECT
MORE THAN A
FEW OF YOU
ENROLLED IN
OUR SCHOOL
EXPRESSLY
FOR THIS
UNIFORM.



ONCE
WINTER BREAK
DRAWS TO A
CLOSE, THE
UNIFORM-
MAKING WILL
BEGIN.



THE GIRLS
OF THE MIDDLE
SCHOOL DIVISION
ARE EAGERLY
AWAITING YOUR
UNIFORMS.

THE YOUNG
WOMEN WHO
ATTENDED THIS
SCHOOL YEARS
PRIOR—YOUR
PREDECESSORS—
ALL SOUGHT
TO PRESERVE
THE TRADITION
OF MAKING
UNIFORMS TO
PASS DOWN TO
THE INCOMING
FIRST-YEARS.

THE HIGH
SCHOOL
DIVISION'S
UNIFORMS
HAVE A
LONG
HISTORY.



DO
YOUR BEST
TO CREATE
EXCELLENT
UNIFORMS
THAT LIVE UP
TO THE WHITE
OAK TREES
THAT HAVE
WATCHED OVER
YOU GIRLS.

...MY
UNIFORM
FEELS
ELATED.



ON DAYS
LIKE
TODAY...

FOR
DECEMBER,
IT'S A WARM
AFTERNOON.

KASA
(CRINKLE)

SAMPLE PATTERN



YOKO-
ZAWA-
SAN.



YES,
MA'AM
.....



HMM...
THEN...

KYORO

KYORO
(GLANCE)

SOSO
(SNEAK)



TODAY'S
CLASS
HELPER
IS...

OH DEAR.
IT'S
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN?

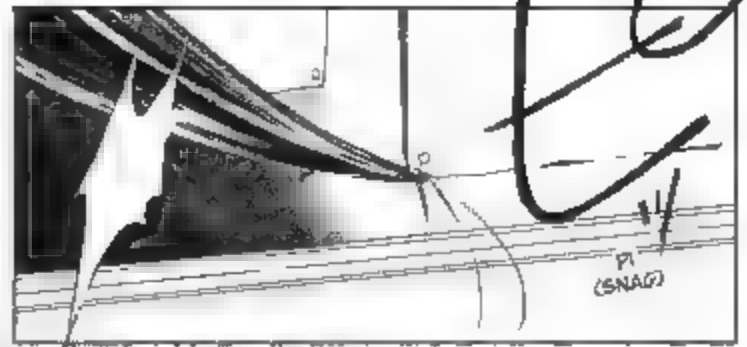


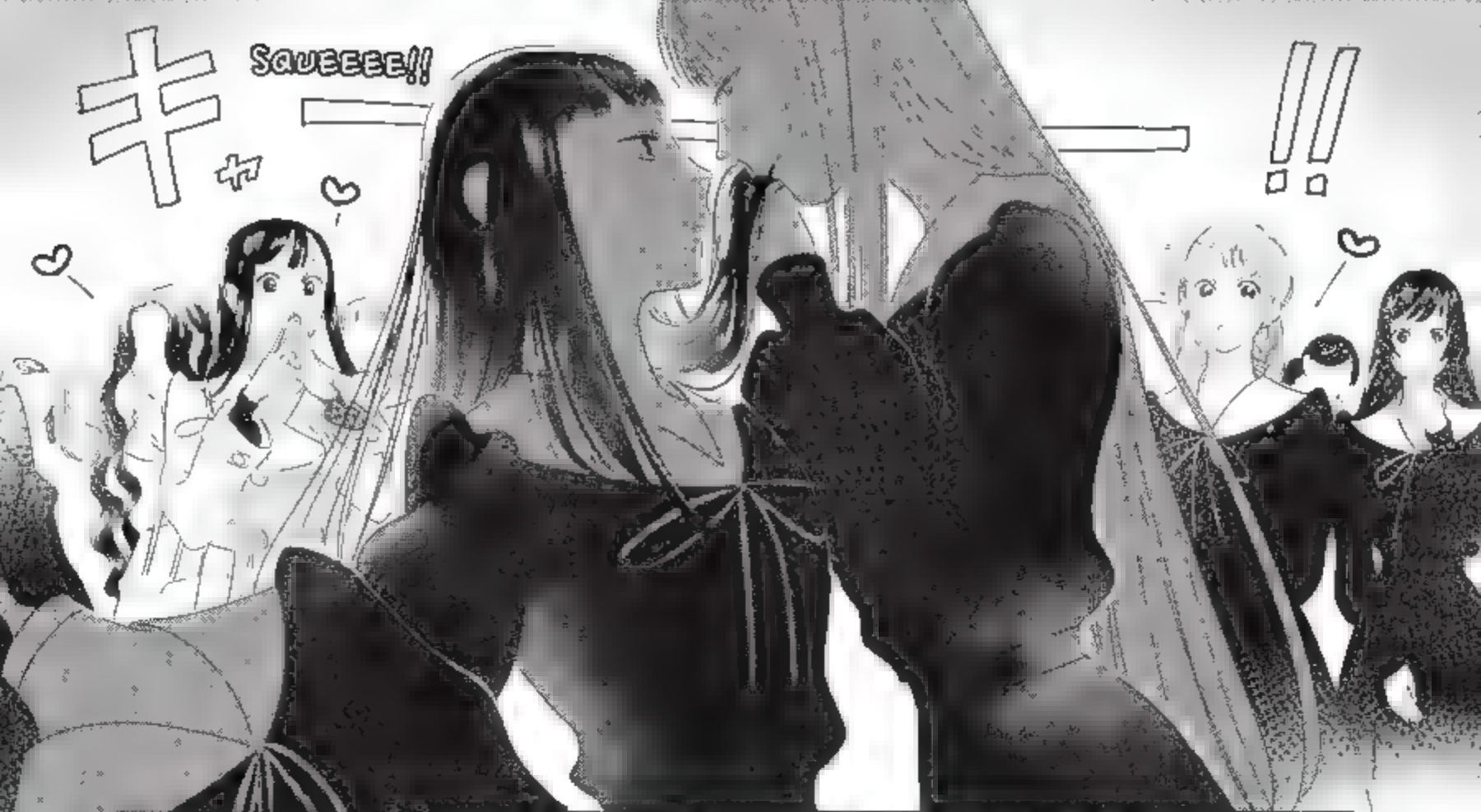
WHY IS
IT ALWAYS
ME?

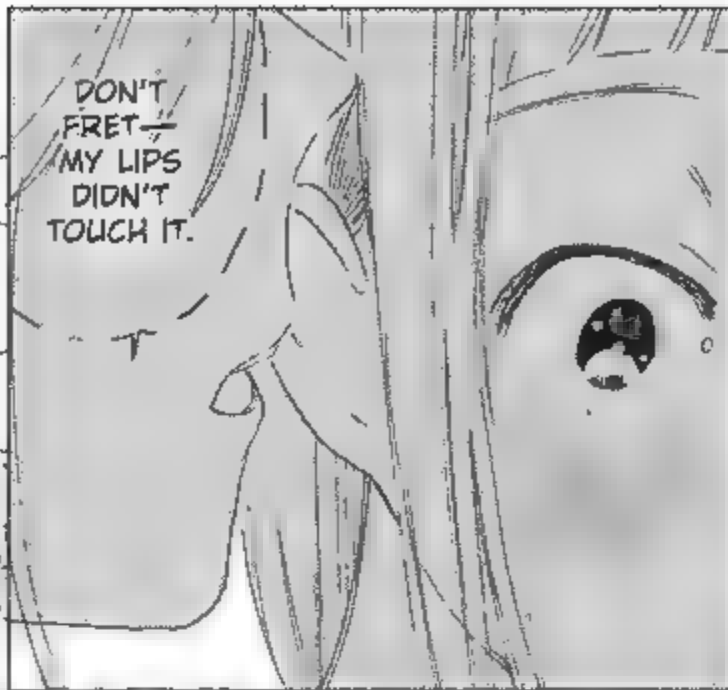
THERE
ARE
PLENTY
OF OTHER
GIRLS
WITH
NOTHING
BETTER
TO DO!

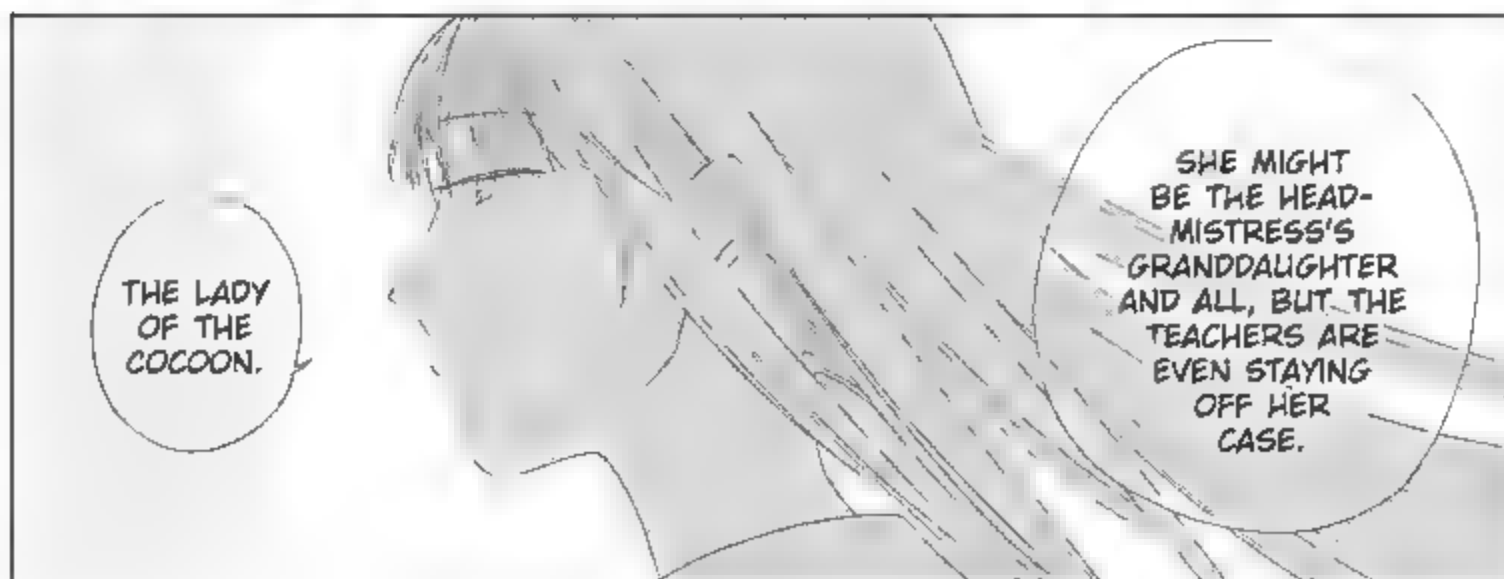
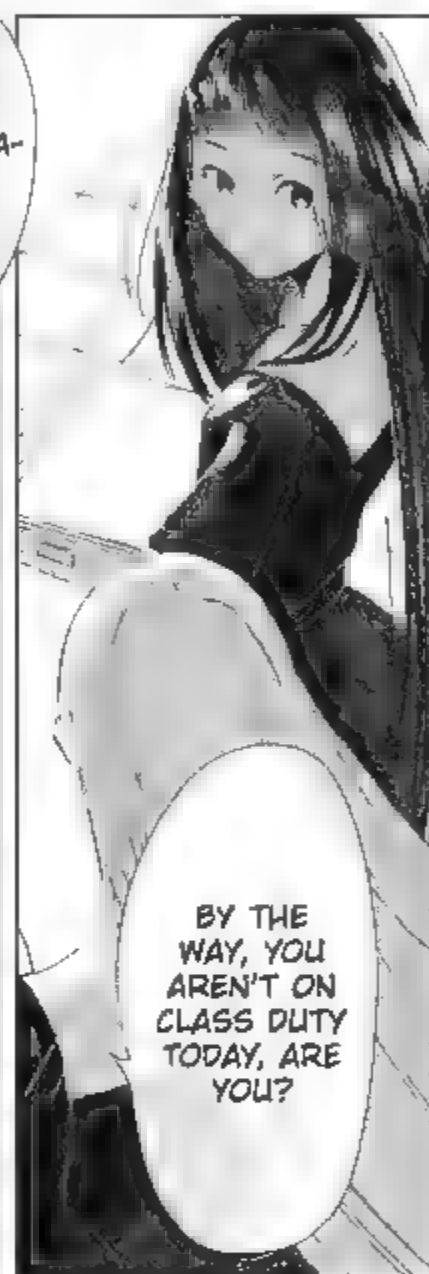


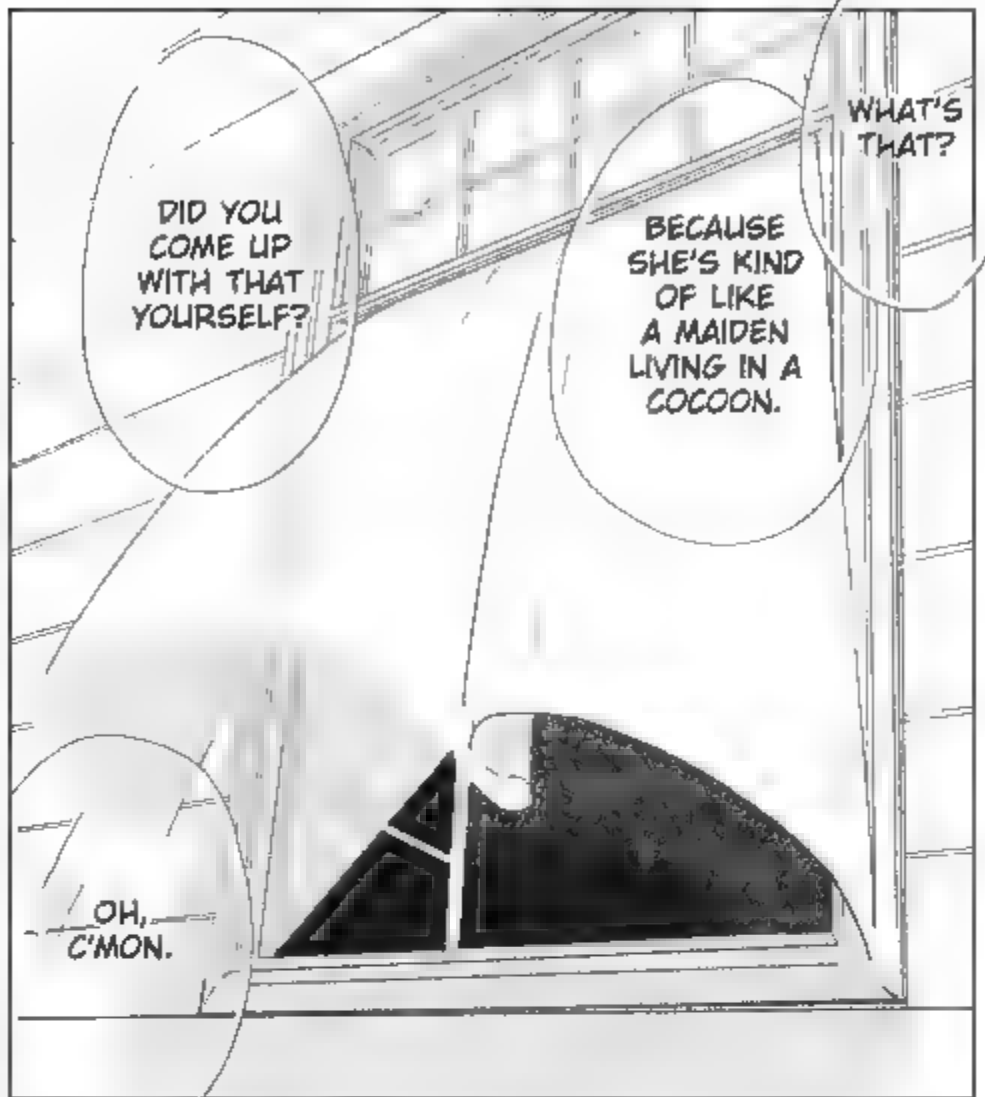
THAT
OLD
BAT!











SIGN: DRESSMAKING BUILDING







...DO I,
YOUKO?

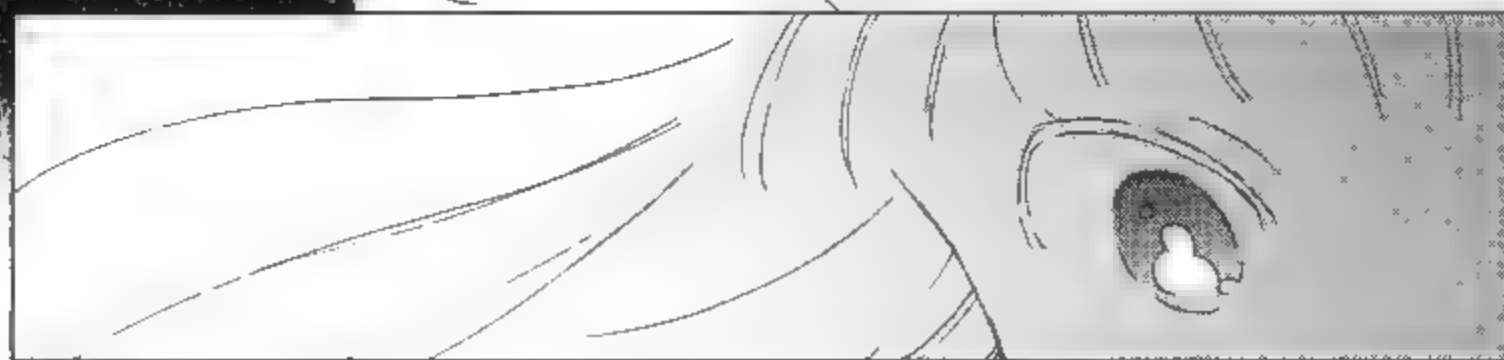
...I DON'T
SHOW
THIS SIDE
OF ME TO
ANY OTHER
GIRLS...



I CAN
HEAR
YOUUU

...ABOUT
HER?

WHY IS
HANA-
SAN'S
FACE THE
ONLY
GOOD
THING...







...OR
TIRED...

...I CAN
SENSE ITS
EMOTIONS.

MY UNIFORM
ESPECIALLY...
IS LINKED TO
MY HEART.


WHETHER
IT'S HAPPY...



YOU'RE
CREEPED
OUT,
RIGHT?



C'MON,
PLEASE?



...I CAN'T
TELL WITH
SOMEONE
ELSE'S.

EVEN
IF YOU
ASK...

HOW
ABOUT IT?
CAN YOU
TELL HOW
IT FEELS?

...I
ENROLLED AT
THIS SCHOOL
BECAUSE I
WANTED TO
MAKE THIS
UNIFORM.

I WONDER
WHAT KIND
OF GIRL THE
ONE I MAKE
WILL GO TO.

MM-
HM.

THANKS.

I'LL
TRY,
BUT
DON'T
EXPECT
ANY-
THING.

H
A
H

...I...

BUT...

...THIS
UNIFORM
REALLY IS
GORGEOUS.

AS LONG AS
SHE'LL CHERISH
IT, THAT'S
ENOUGH FOR
ME, BUT...AREN'T
YOU AWFULLY
CURIOUS?

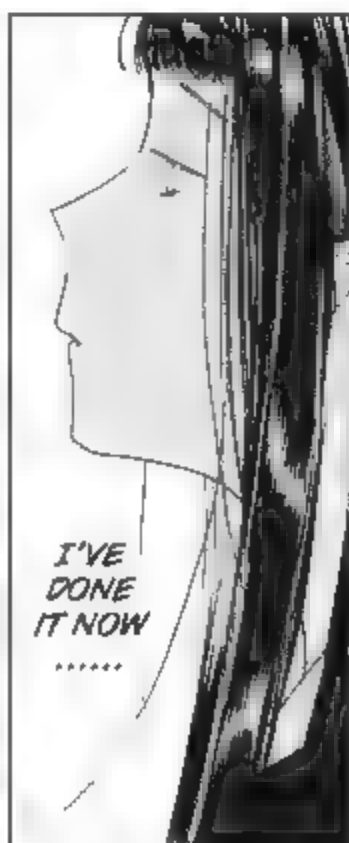
YEAH.

YOU
KNOW...





JUST
QUIT
BEING A
PRINCE.






...HAS TWO
BREATHS.....?

LONG AGO, THERE WAS A BIG WAR.



THE WAR
TOOK
MANY
THINGS.

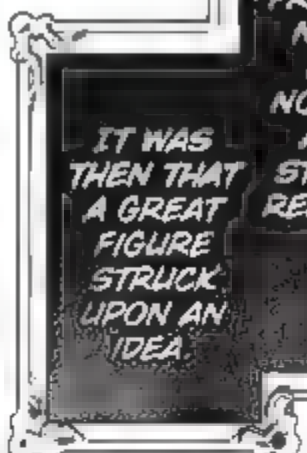


...TO MAKE
MILITARY
UNIFORMS.

THE LONG-
HAIRIED
WOMEN WERE
IMMEDIATELY
ASSEMBLED...

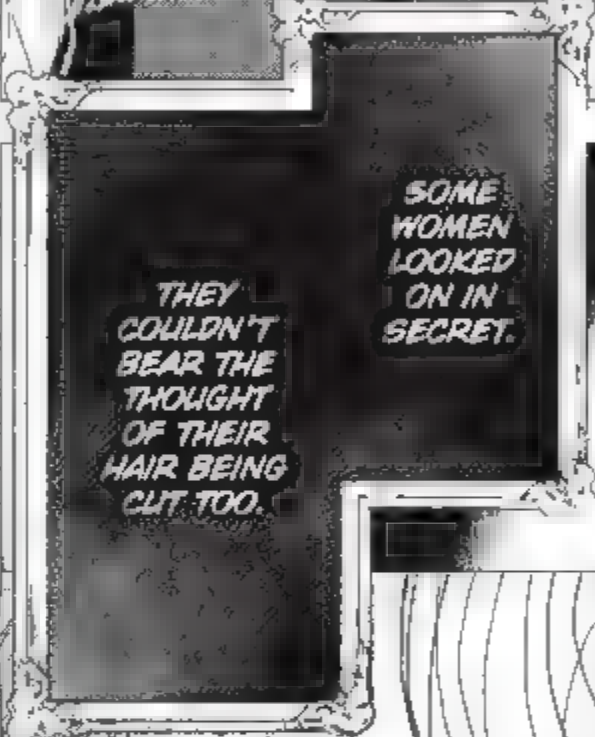


"THAT'S
IT! WE
CAN
USE
HAIR!"



IT WAS
THEN THAT
A GREAT
FIGURE
STRUCK
UPON AN
IDEA.

AS THE
WAR
RAGED ON,
THREAD
VANISHED
FROM THE
NATION
UNTIL
NOT EVEN
A FEW
STRANDS
REMAINED.



THEY
COULDN'T
BEAR THE
THOUGHT
OF THEIR
HAIR BEING
CUT TOO.


SOME
WOMEN
LOOKED
ON IN
SECRET.



"DRESSES
JUST
FOR US,
THAT WE
WON'T LET
ANYONE
TOUCH."



THE
WOMEN
CUT THEIR
OWN HAIR
AND MADE
DRESSES.




"I KNOW—
BEFORE
THEY CUT
OUR HAIR,
LET'S
MAKE
OUR OWN
SECRET
DRESSES."



IT'S
SAID THE
DRESSES
WERE
INCREDIBLY
BEAUTIFUL

...AND
THAT
THOSE
WHO
WORE
THEM ALL
SAID...

...IT'S
ALMOST AS
THOUGH THE
DRESS IS
BREATHING.



THE SECRET
DRESS-
MAKING AND
THE WAR
BOTH ENDED.
NOW THEY'RE
JUST
STORIES OF
THE PAST...

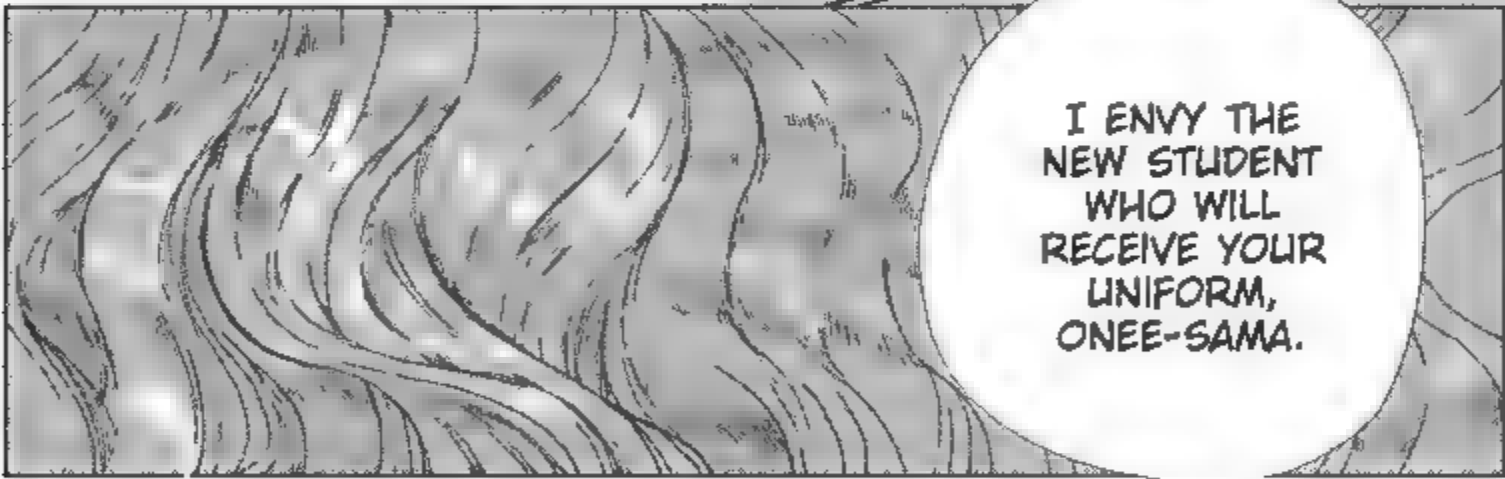


THAT
SHOULD BE
ENOUGH.



IT'S
TRULY
LOVELY.

...EXCEPT
FOR ONE
TRADITION.




I ENVY THE
NEW STUDENT
WHO WILL
RECEIVE YOUR
UNIFORM,
ONEE-SAMA.



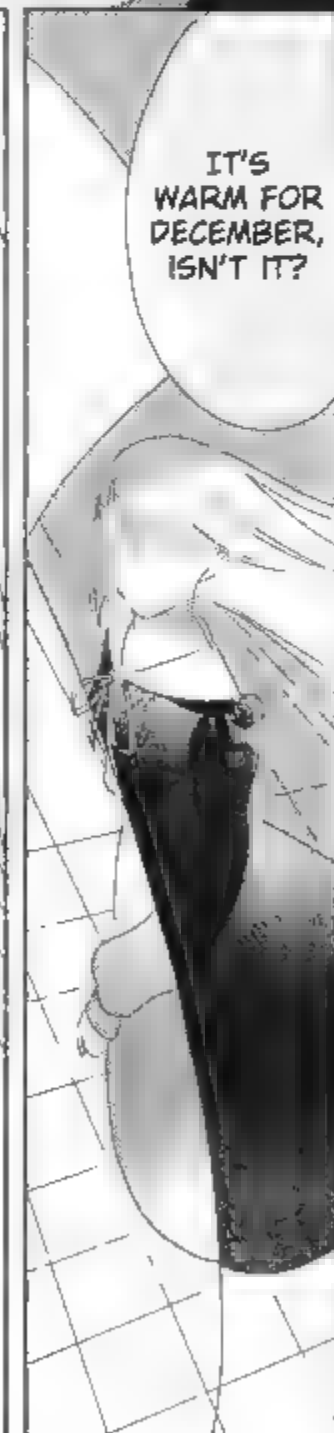
COMMUTERS →

SAME.

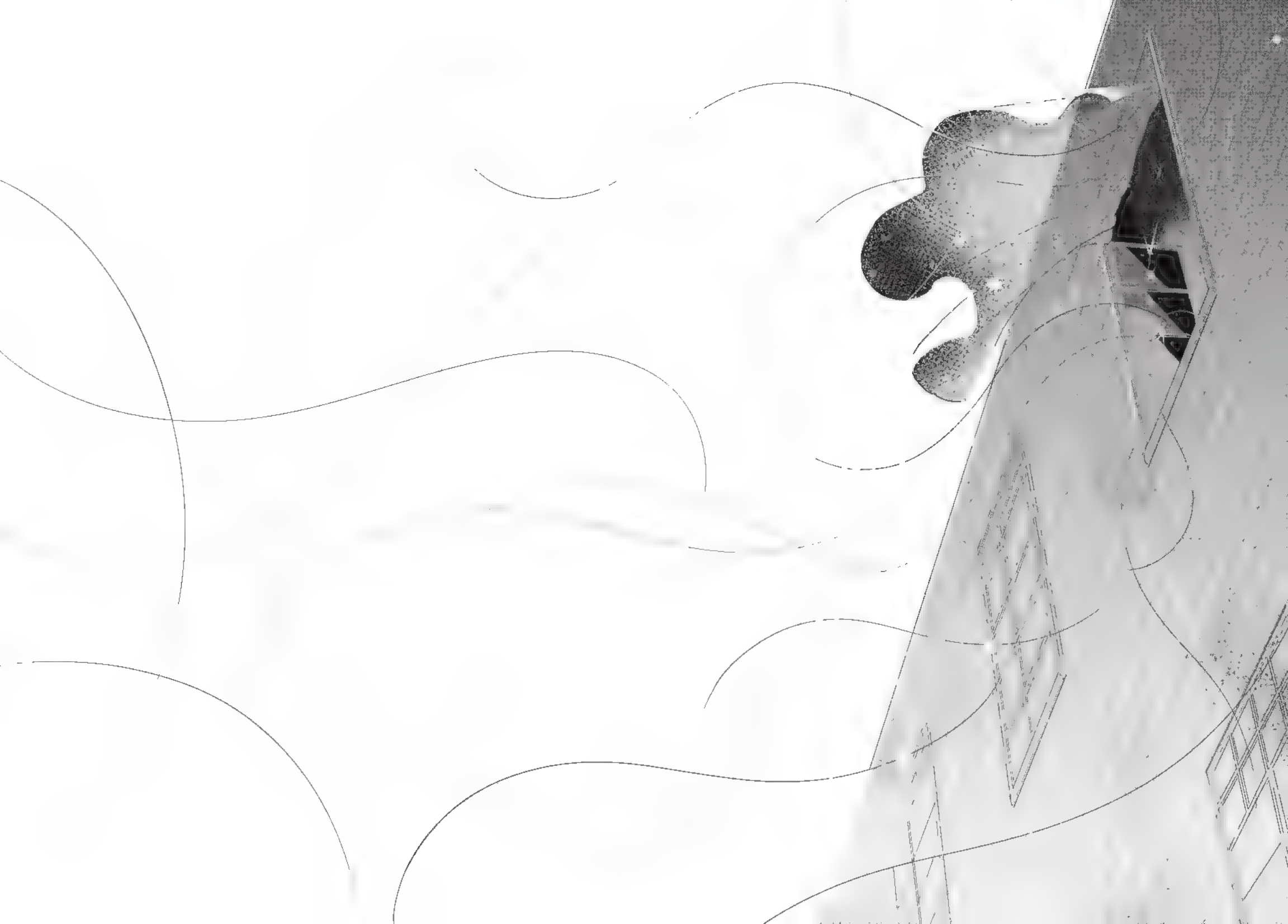
H
A
H

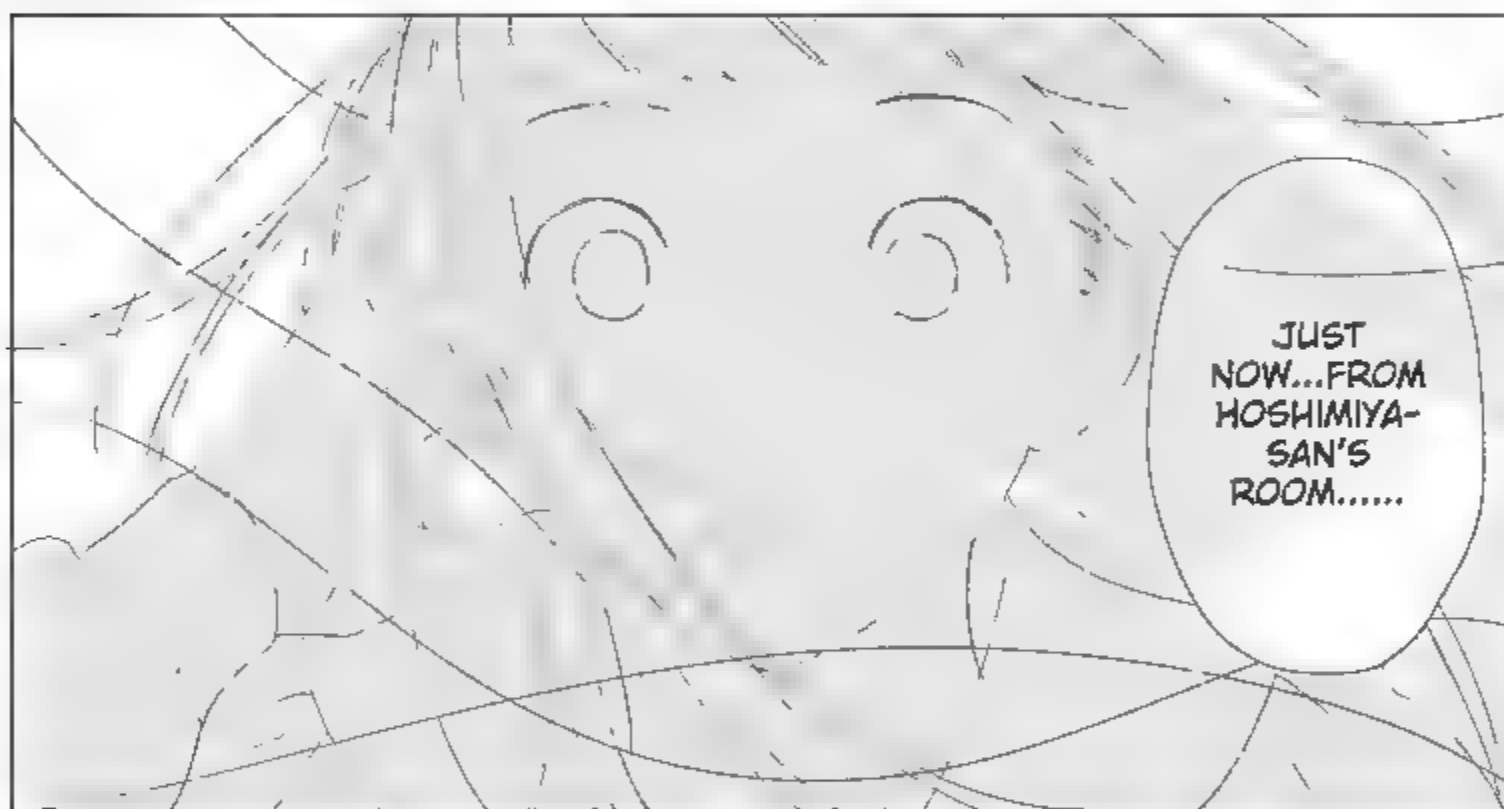
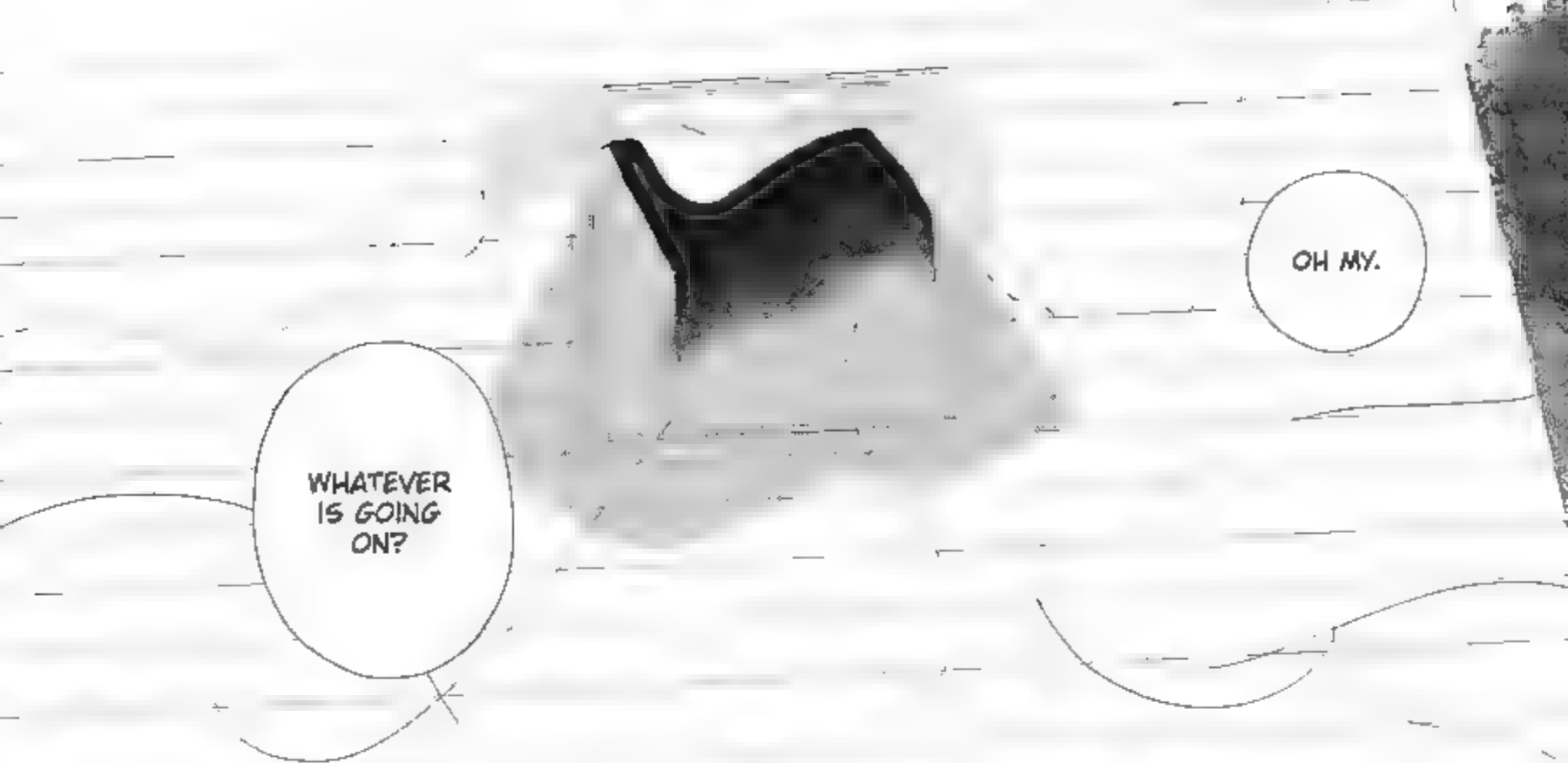


I'VE BEEN
GOING TO THIS
SCHOOL FOR
SIX YEARS, AND
I'M STILL NOT
USED TO THE
DORM'S SISTER
THING.













**OUR
UNIFORMS
ARE MADE
OF HAIR.**

*Cocoon
Entwined*





OH YEAH,
WHERE'S
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN?

SHOULDER
WIDTH—
THIRTY-SIX.

HIPS—
EIGHTY.

HEAD—
FIFTY-ONE.

IT
SEEMS LIKE
SHE'S IN A
SEPARATE
ROOM.

LUCKY!

MIDDLE SCHOOL
DIVISION
THIRD-YEAR
YUKO YOKOZAWA

REALLY?

I WON'T
LISTEN
WHEN IT'S
YOUR TURN,
MIIKO.

TOTALLY.

THIS IS
REALLY
VULGAR,
ISN'T IT?

WAIST—
FIFTY-
NINE

SLEEVE
LENGTH—
FIFTY-
TWO.

BUST—
EIGHTY.

YOU
REALLY
HAVE TO
WONDER.

RIGHT?

I
WONDER
WHAT THAT
MUST BE
LIKE.

THEY'RE
DOING
THE HIGH
SCHOOL
THIRD-
YEARS'
HAIRCUTTING
CEREMONY
ON THE
SECOND
FLOOR,
AREN'T
THEY?

JUST
BETWEEN
US...

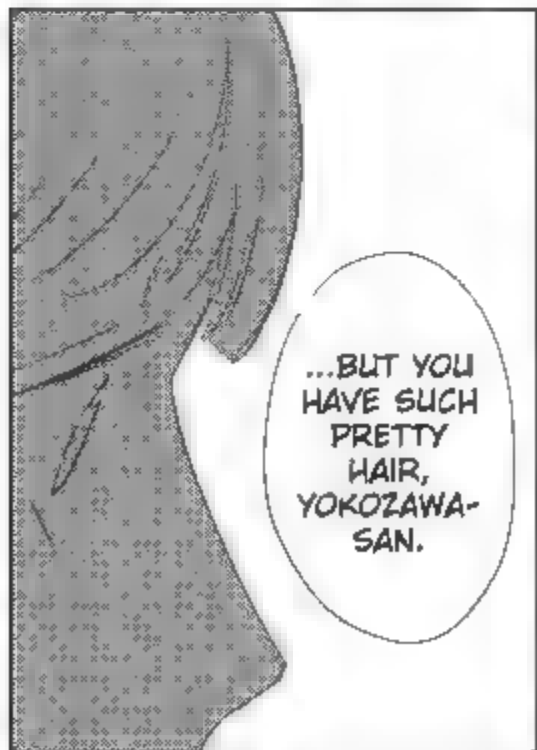
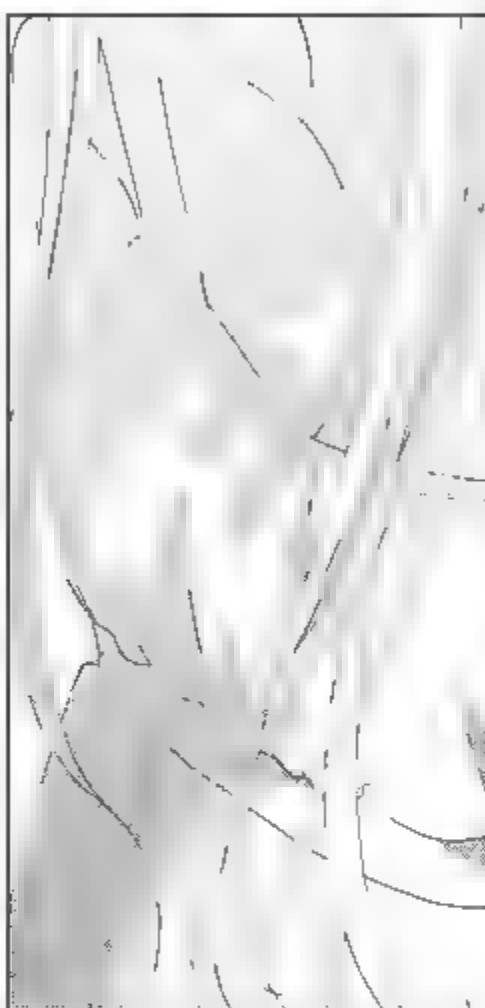
WILL I HAVE
ENOUGH? I'VE
ONLY BEEN
GROWING
MINE OUT
SINCE SECOND
GRADE.

YOKOZAWA-
SAN, RIGHT?

PROBABLY
BECAUSE
THERE
WOULDN'T
BE
ENOUGH
TO MAKE A
UNIFORM.

...I
HEARD IF
YOUR HAIR
ISN'T LONG
ENOUGH,
THEY'LL SEND
YOU HOME
WITHOUT
CUTTING IT.

REALLY?
YOU'RE
DISQUALIFIED?







DON'T
SAY
THAT.



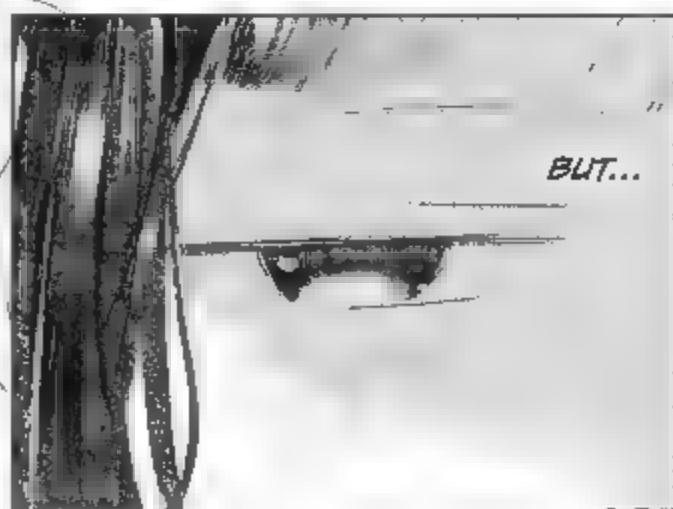
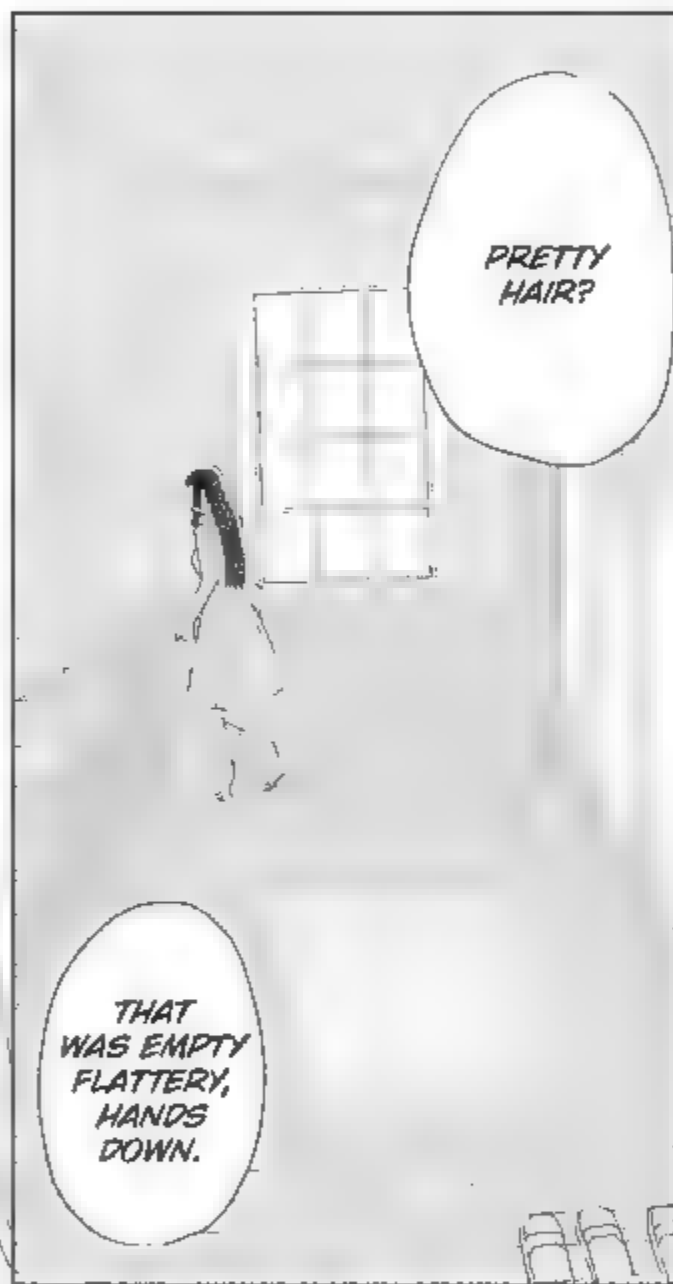
...AND SO
DELICATE, IT
SEEMS LIKE
IT COULD
BREAK
AT THE
SLIGHTEST
TOUCH.

YOUR
HAIR IS SO
SILKY...

I THINK
IT'S GOING
TO MAKE
A REALLY
LOVELY
UNIFORM.

SU
CBRUSHO

9
7





SNOW.



I'D
BETTER
HURRY
BACK.



I'D
BETTER
HURRY
BACK.



I'D
BETTER
HURRY
BACK.

ON THE
LAST DAY
OF WINTER
BREAK...

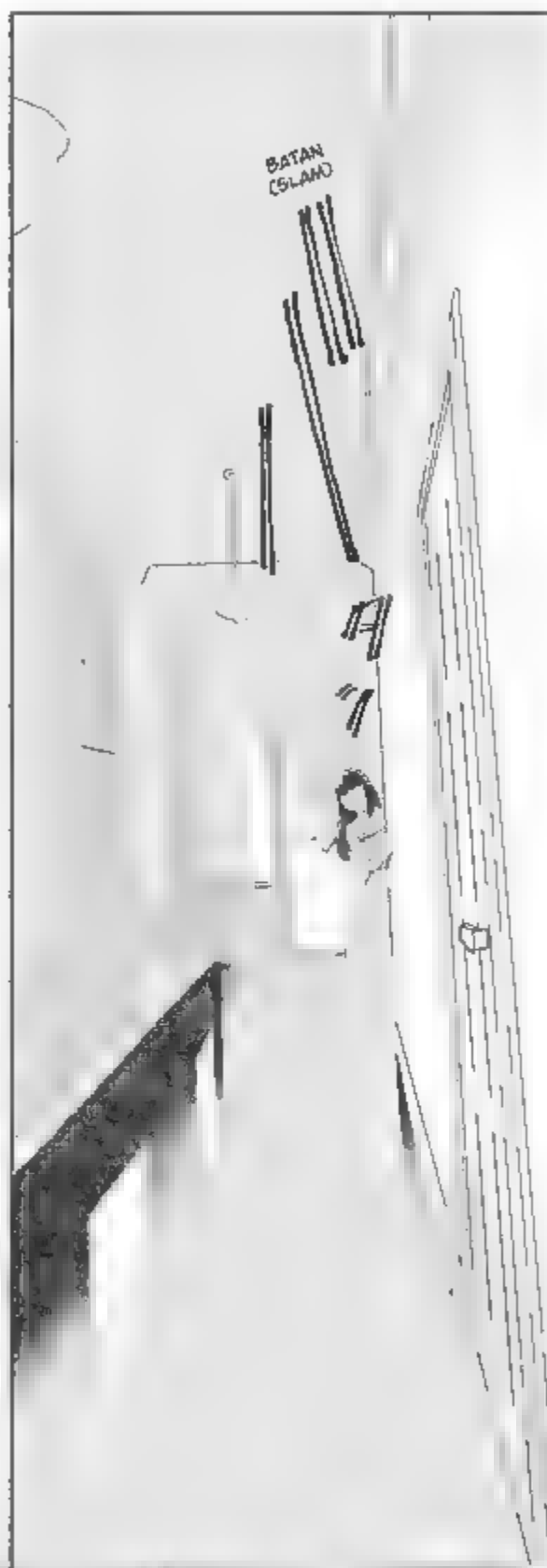
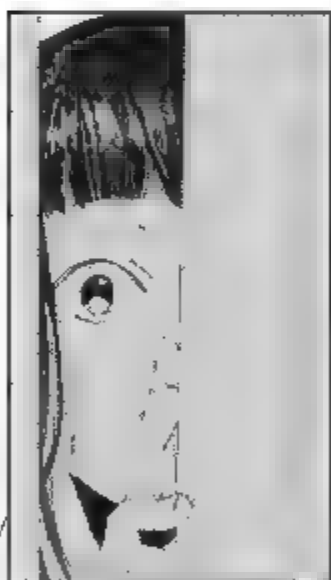
THE MIDDLE
SCHOOLERS
FOR UNIFORM
MEASUREMENTS...

...THE HIGH
SCHOOL
THIRD-YEARS
AND MIDDLE
SCHOOL THIRD-
YEARS ARE
ASSEMBLED
IN THE
DRESSMAKING
BUILDING.

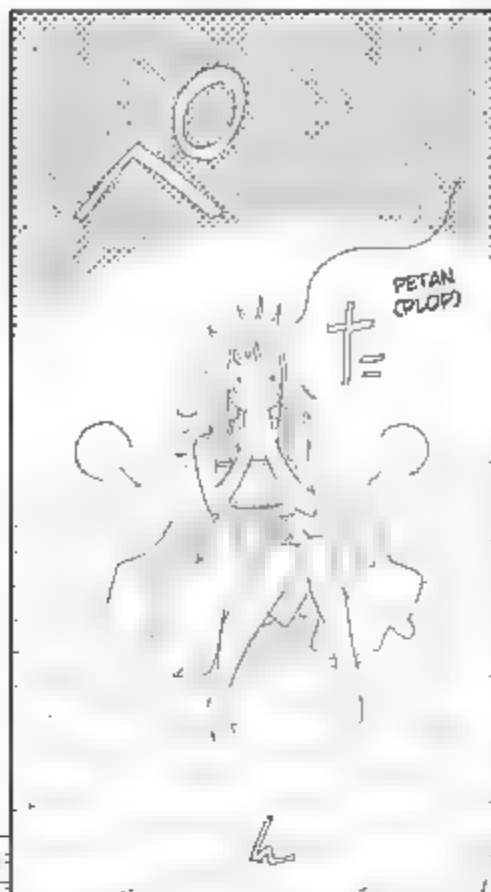


...AND
THE HIGH
SCHOOLERS
FOR...



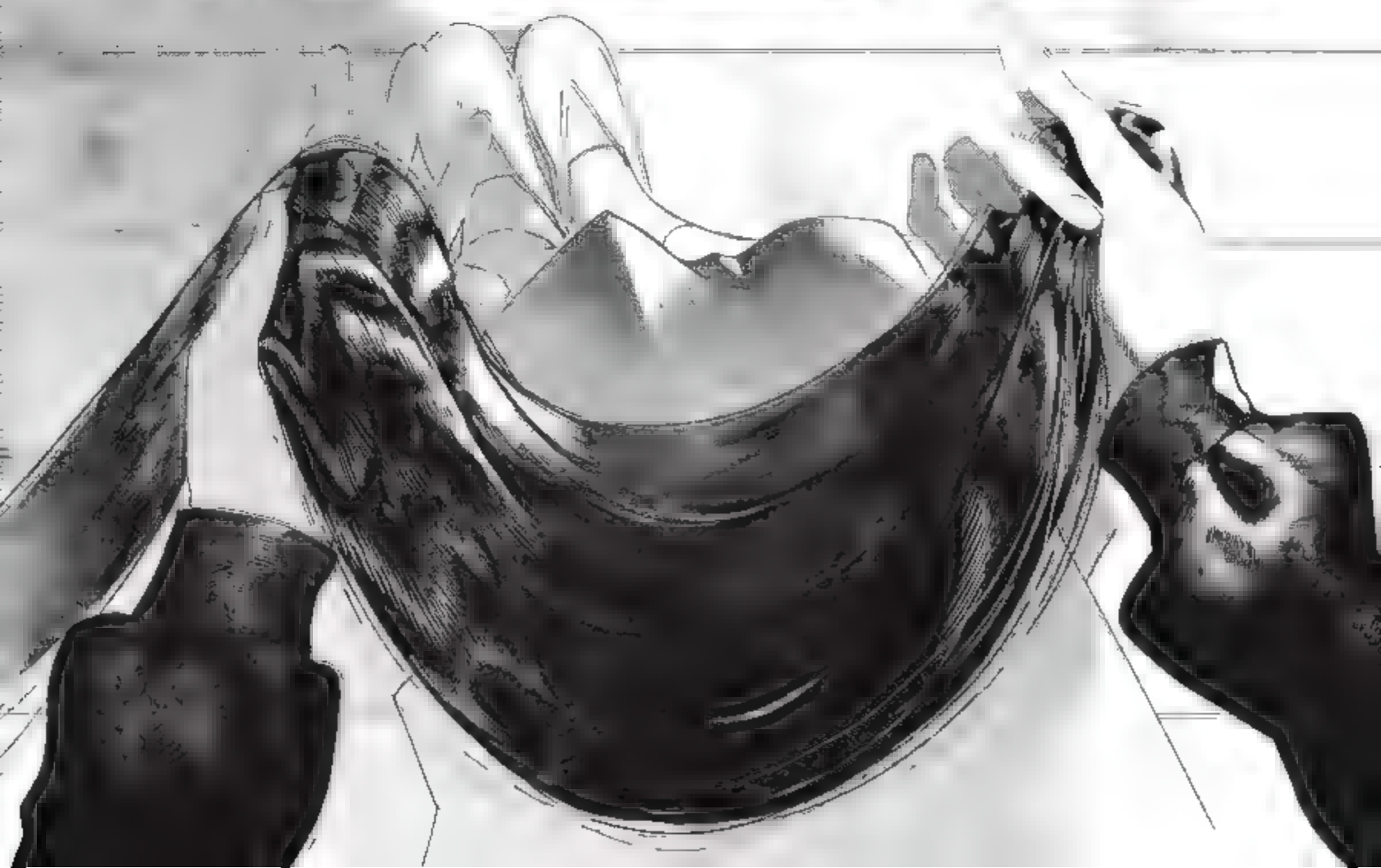






COULD
YOU PLEASE
WAIT A
MOMENT?







THANK
YOU FOR
EVERYTHING.



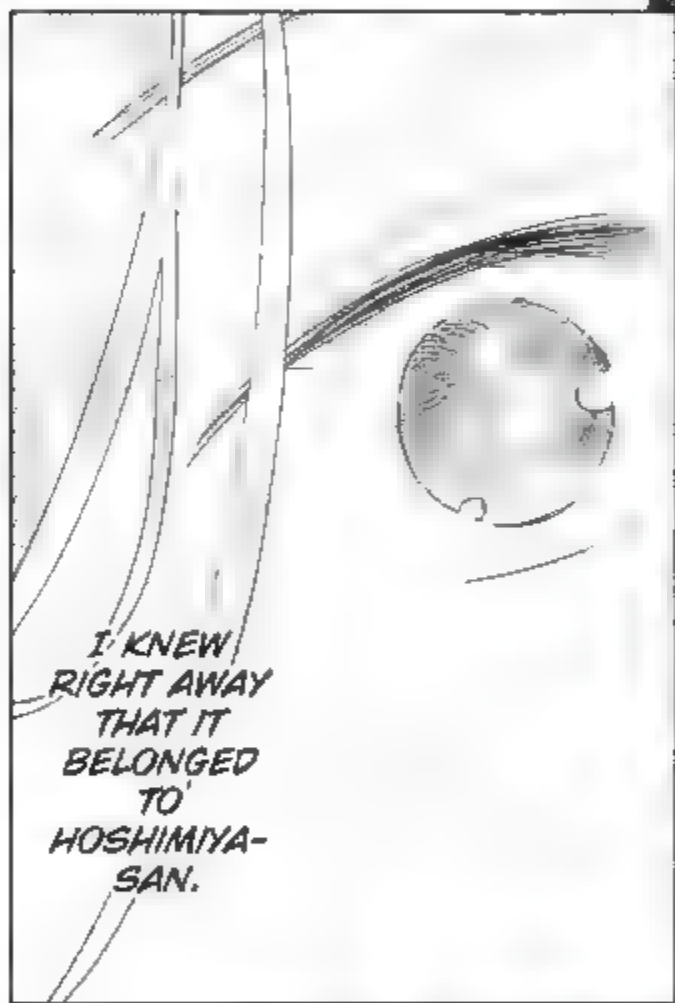
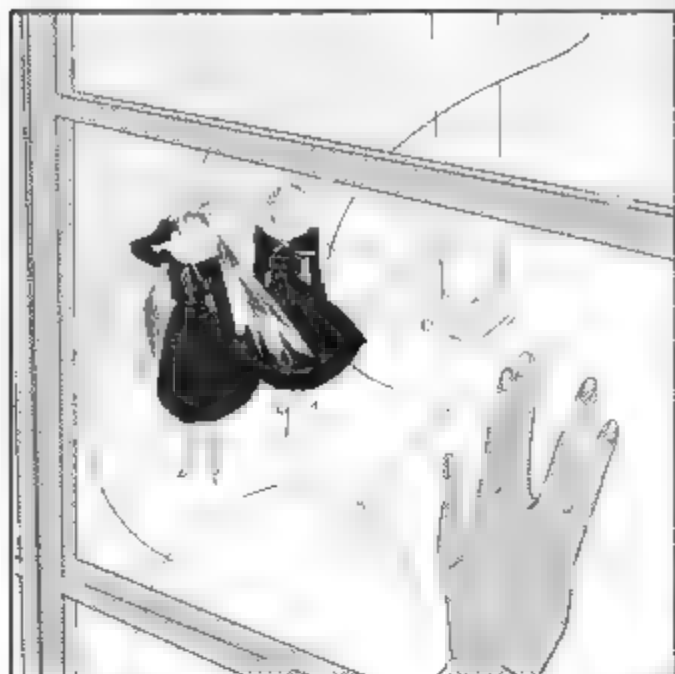
PARDON
ME.





*Cocoon
Entwined*





I KNEW
RIGHT AWAY
THAT IT
BELONGED
TO
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN.



HIGH SCHOOL
DIVISION
THIRD-YEAR
YUKA HANYUJI

I SPOKE
TO HER
BEFORE—
JUST
ONCE.





ON DAYS
WHEN WE
HAVE WALTZ
LESSONS IN
THE AFTER-
NOON...

I'VE
ALWAYS
LOVED
THE
WALTZ.

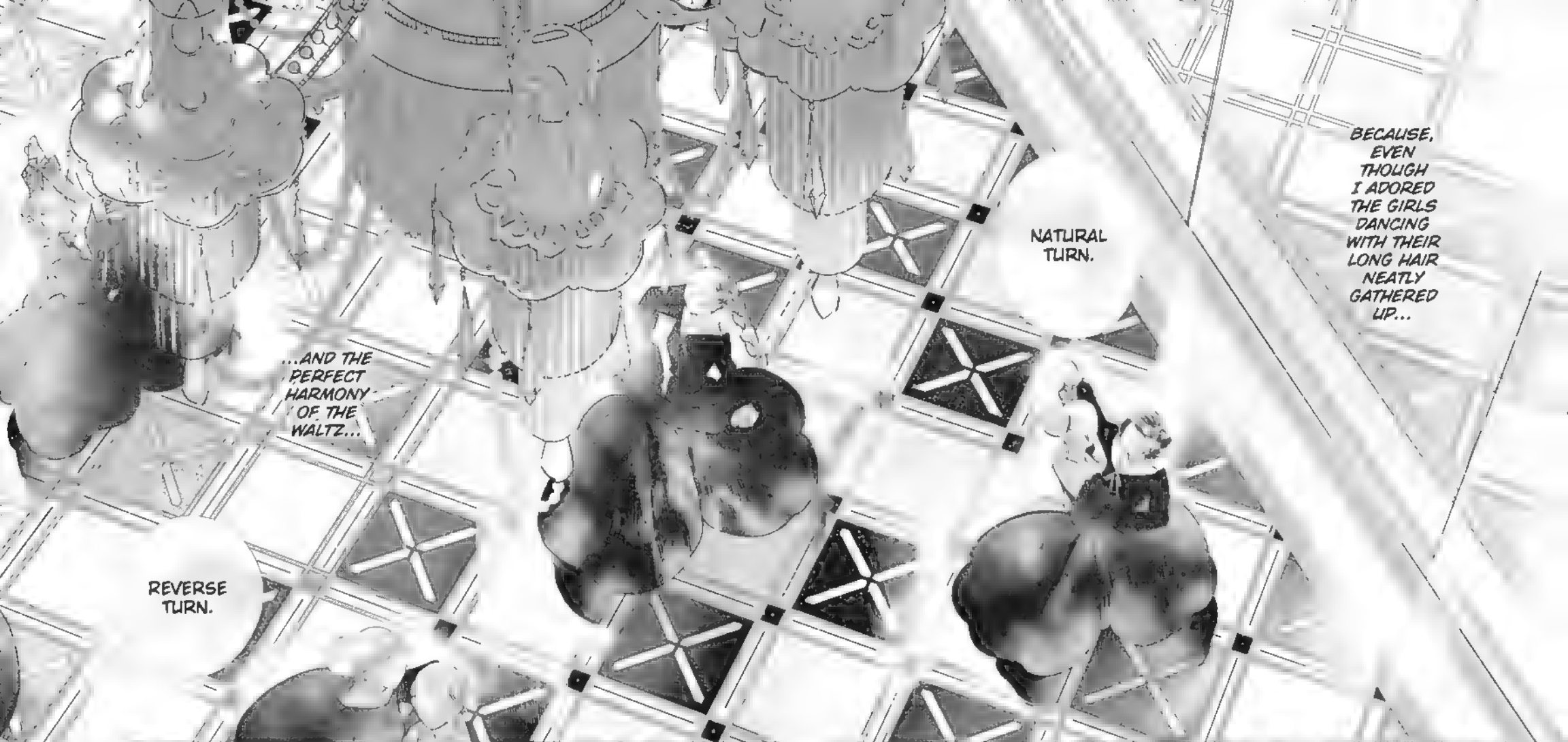
ONE, TWO,
THREE. FEEL
THE TEMPO IN
YOUR BODY.



...WE TIE
UP OUR
HAIR
DURING
LUNCH
BREAK.
IT'S AN
UNSPOKEN
RULE.

THAT'S
WHY, THAT
DAY, I FELT
A LITTLE
GUILTY.

THOSE
DANCING THE
MAN'S PART,
LEAD YOUR
PARTNER.



BECAUSE,
EVEN
THOUGH
I ADORED
THE GIRLS
DANCING
WITH THEIR
LONG HAIR
NEATLY
GATHERED
UP...

NATURAL
TURN.

...AND THE
PERFECT
HARMONY
OF THE
WALTZ...

REVERSE
TURN.



...I COULDN'T
HELP BUT BE
MESMERIZED...



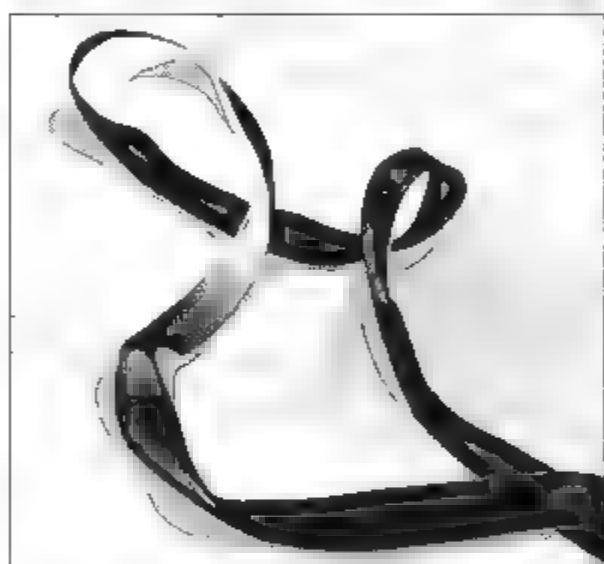
...BY
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN'S HAIR.

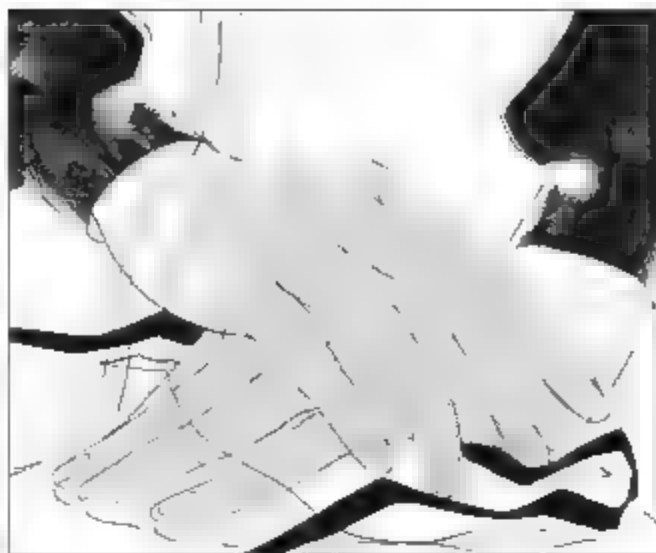


...AND
LUSTROUS.



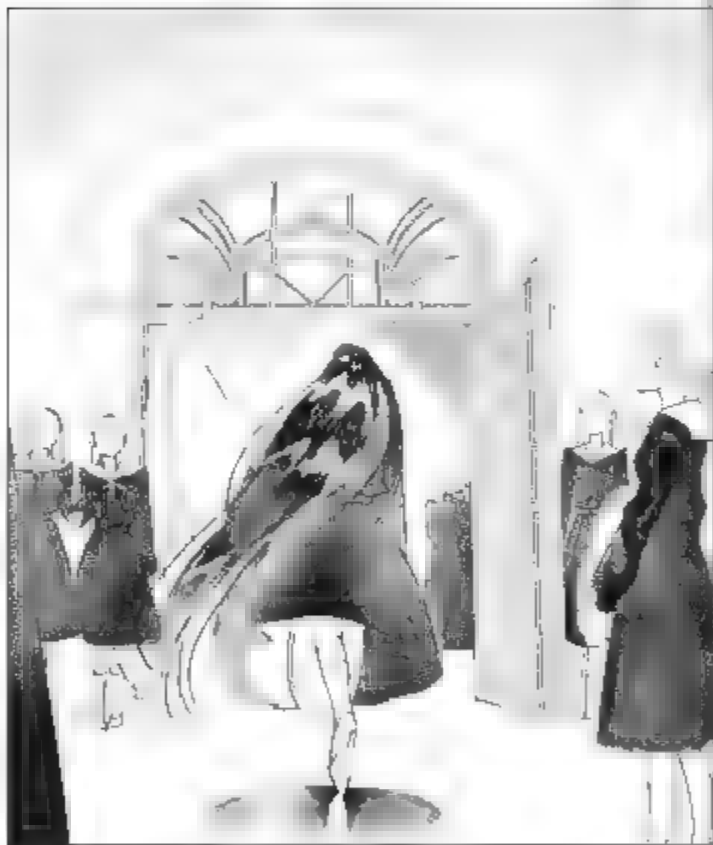
SHE
FLOATED
IN THE
MIDST
OF THE
WALTZ,
SO VERY
FREE...





WHY DO
YOU TRY TO
TIE UP YOUR
HAIR?





HANYUU-
SAN?





THANK
YOU FOR
ALWAYS
DOING
THIS.



WE'LL
HELP YOU
TIE UP
YOUR
HAIR.



THAT
REMINDS ME,
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN...



I KNOW!
I WAS SO
SCARED OF
ACCIDENTALLY
STEPPING
ON IT.

WHY
DOESN'T
SHE TIE
UP HER
HAIR?

IT WOULD
BE SO MUCH
BETTER TO
TIE IT UP,
WOULDN'T
IT?



IT'S NO
PROBLEM.
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.



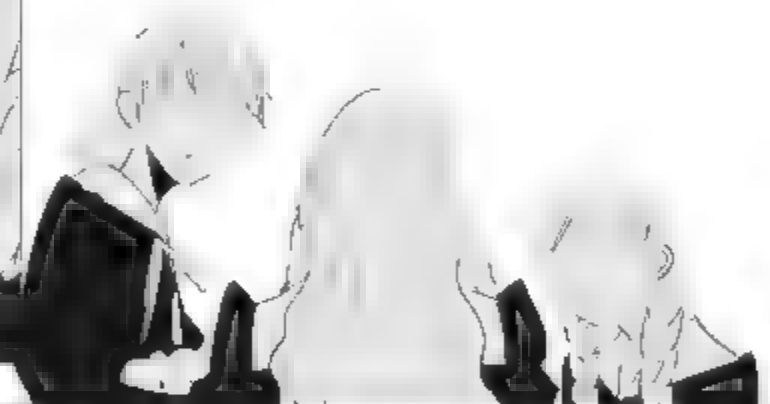
AH!

I DON'T
THINK
SO.....



RIGHT?
EXACTLY.

YOU'RE
RIGHT
IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL.
IT WOULD BE
A TERRIBLE
SHAME IF IT
CAUGHT ON
SOMETHING
AND HAD TO
BE CUT



WHY DON'T
WE GO BUY A
BARRETTE OR
SCRUNCHIE THAT
WOULD SUIT
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN?

I KNOW!



WELL,
HANYUU-
SAN...?

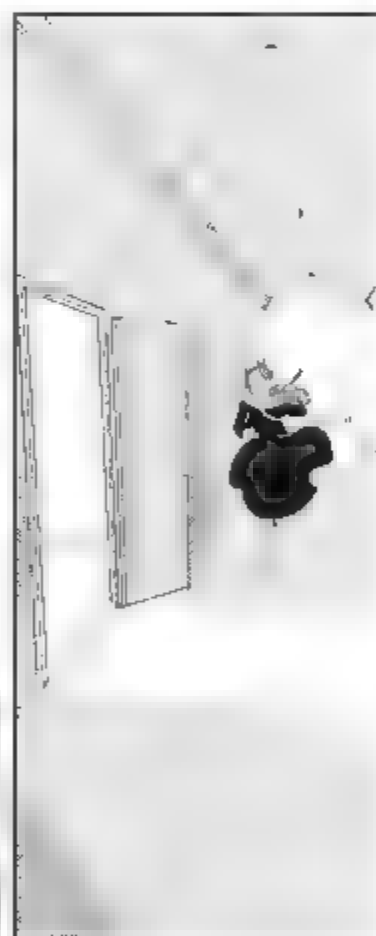
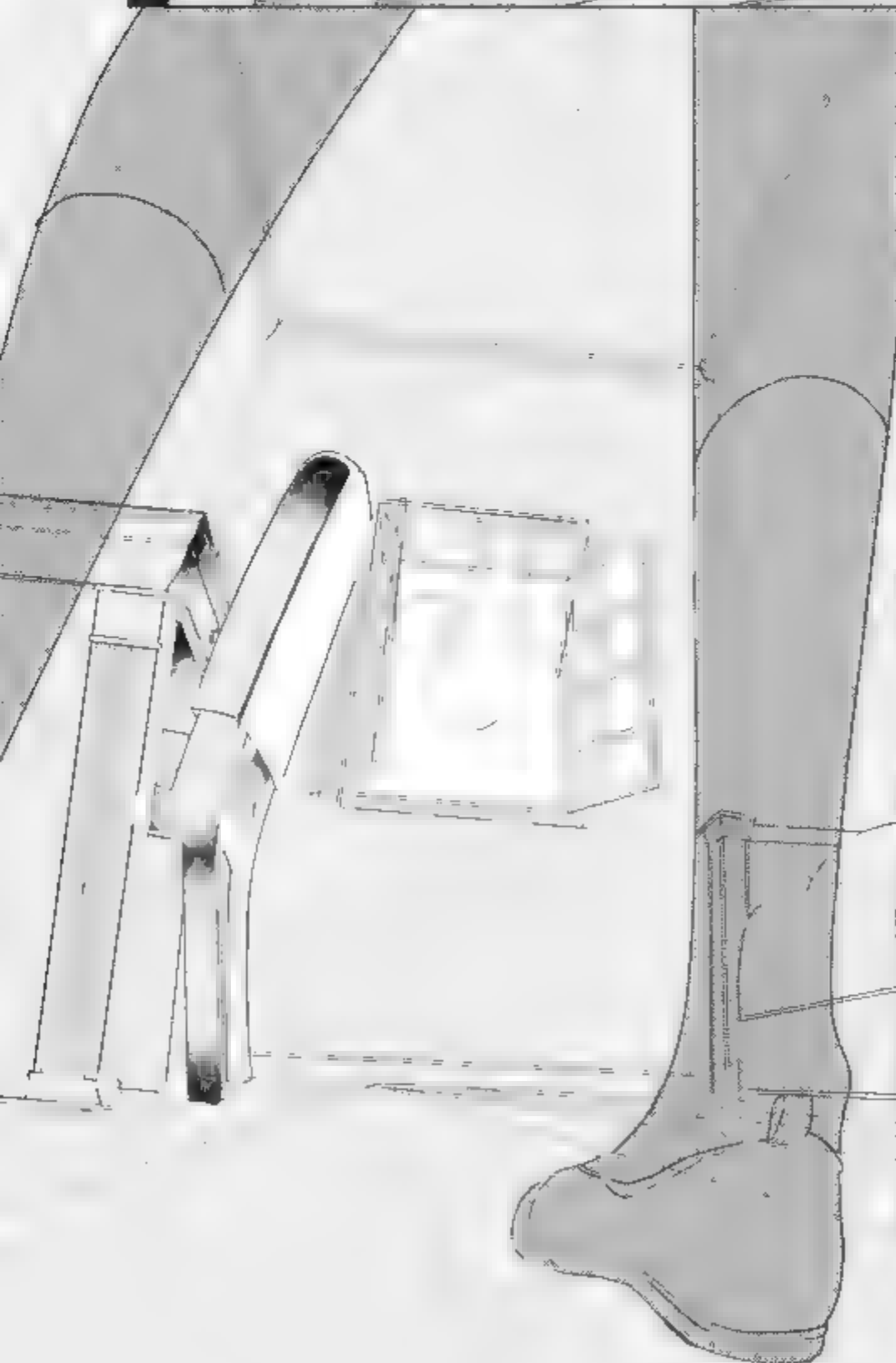


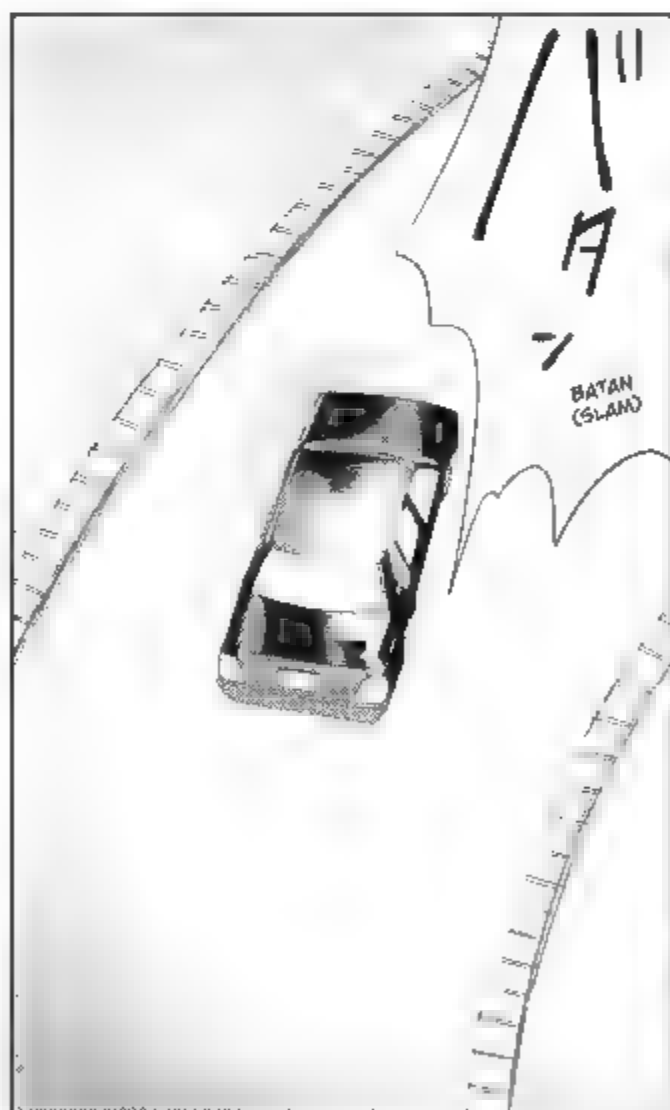
...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?





I DO
RECALL
...





HOSHI-
MIYA-
SAN!

BURORO
(VROOM)

HOSHI-
MIYA-
SAN!

DANCE
WITH
ME LIKE
THAT.



WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF WE
RUINED THIS
WALTZ?

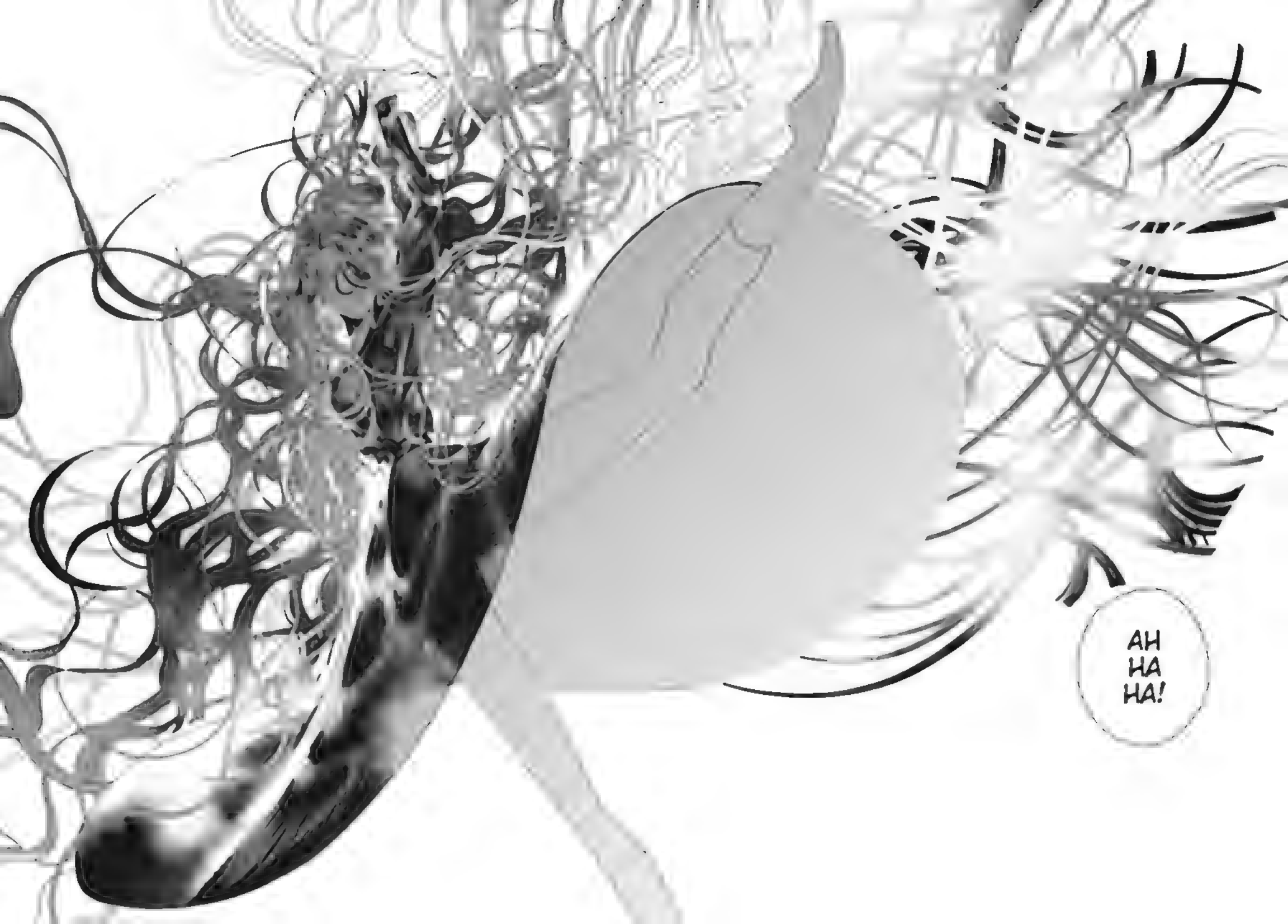




HA-HA!



PFFT!



AH
HA
HA!

...REVIVED.

*AHH...I
FEEL THE
SLIGHTEST
BIT...*



*Cocoon
Entwined*

SAEKI-SAN.

YOU'RE WEARING A COAT SO SOON? HAVE YOU COME DOWN WITH A COLD, PERHAPS?

SAEKI-SAN, I BAKED THESE COOKIES FOR YOU. WOULD YOU—?

HAVE I?

HAVE YOU GOTTEN TALLER AGAIN?

LATER, OKAY?

HIGH SCHOOL
DIVISION
FIRST-YEAR
HANA SAEKI

SORRY, LADIES. I'M AFRAID I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY.

HEY, SAEKI-SAN.

SHE OBVIOUSLY CAN'T ACCEPT PERSONAL GIFTS.

AND I WAS SO SURE I'D GET HER TO ACCEPT MY COOKIES TODAY!

PA
G'WIP?



AFTER ALL, THE
PRINCE BELONGS
TO EVERYONE.

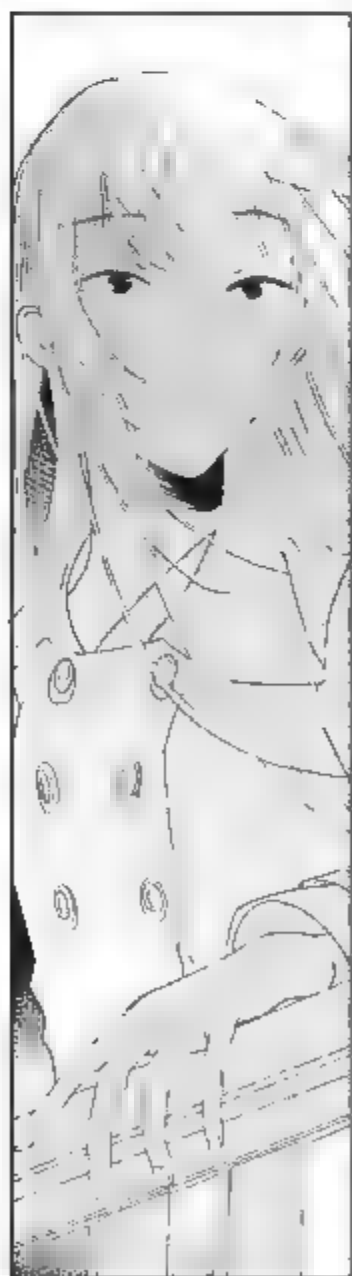


PRINCES
ALWAYS
MAKE A LATE
ENTRANCE.



IT'S
FINE.

I'M SORRY
I'M LATE.



ARE YOU
KEEPING UP
ALL RIGHT
WITH HIGH
SCHOOL
CLASSES?

YES, I'M
MANAGING.



YOU
HAVEN'T
BEEN IN THE
DRESSMAKING
BUILDING
SINCE
YOU WERE
MEASURED,
RIGHT?

YES.



...A
CATA-
COMB,
ISN'T
IT?

OH, THOSE
UNDERGROUND
TOMBS? I'M
IMPRESSED YOU
KNOW WHAT
THOSE ARE.



THIS IS
KIND OF
LIKE...

OH
(CREAK)



I'LL GET
THE LIGHT.
YOU WAIT
THERE.



THE
TOMB OF THE
DRESSMAKING
BUILDING,
HMM? I LIKE
THAT.



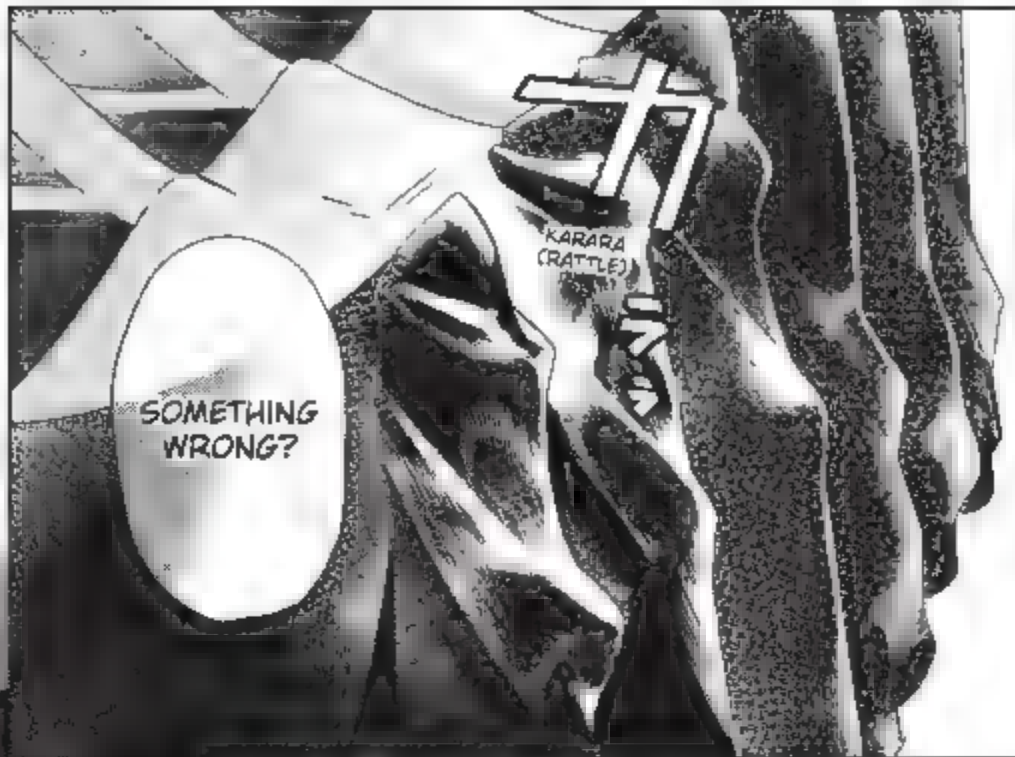
SORRY, I
GUESS THE
LIGHT SWITCH
WAS ON THE
OPPOSITE WALL.
COULD YOU
CHECK YOUR
SIDE FOR
ME?



AH.









...WE
OPENED THIS
TOMB UP
FOR YOU, SO
GET READY.

ANY-
WAY...

I DIDN'T
KNOW ABOUT
THIS PLACE
UNTIL AFTER
I BECAME A
TEACHER
MYSELF.



YOU CAN TAKE
YOUR UNIFORM
WITH YOU WHEN
YOU GRADUATE,
BUT SOME
GIRLS LEAVE
THEIRS TOO.



I HOPE I
CAN FIND A
UNIFORM
THAT FITS.

IT'S
WORSE
THAN I
HEARD

MY,
MY...

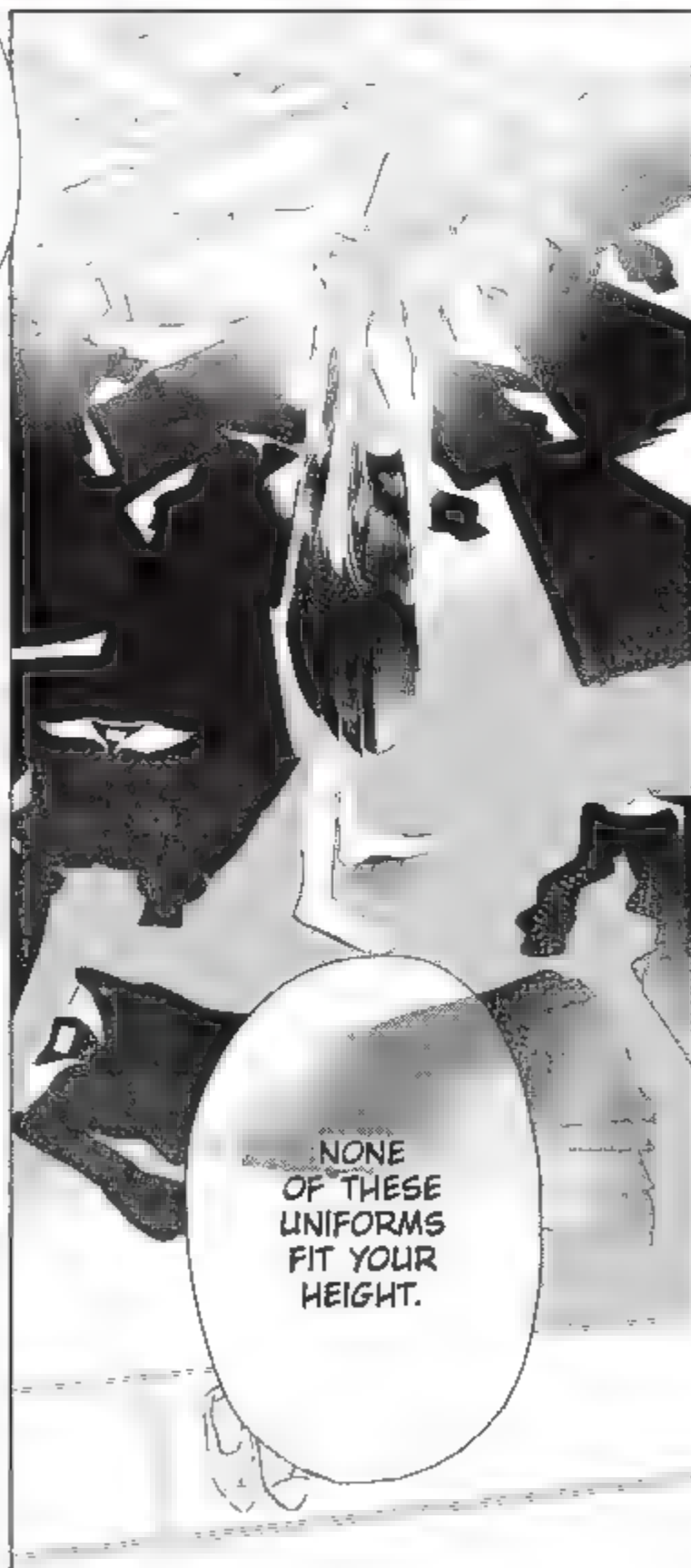
YOU'VE
REALLY
SHOT UP,
HAVEN'T
YOU.....?



AH...









THAT'S
FINE WITH
ME.



I DON'T
MIND GOING
TO SCHOOL IN
A TRACKSUIT
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE.

YOU
KNOW
THAT
WON'T
FLY.

HMM...NOW
THAT THAT'S
SETTLED, WHAT
SHOULD WE
HAVE YOU
DO IN THE
MEANTIME?

COME TO
THINK OF
IT...







I CAN
ASSURE
YOU I'M
QUITE
FINE.



...
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN?



HER
HAIR WAS
INCREDIBLY
LIGHT.....

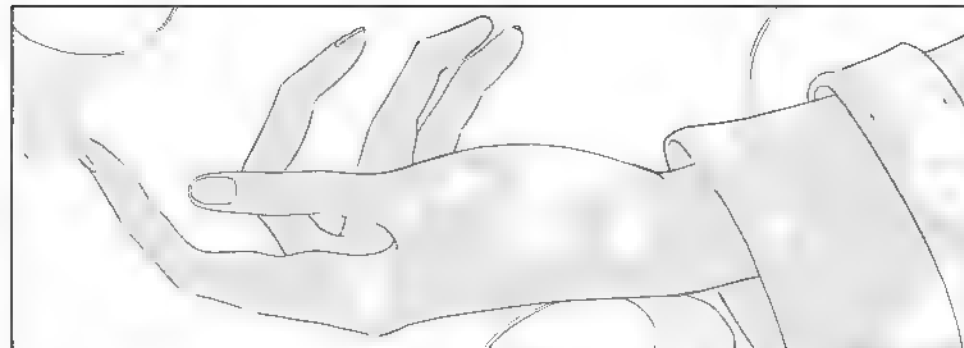


AHH...

SO
LIGHT.....



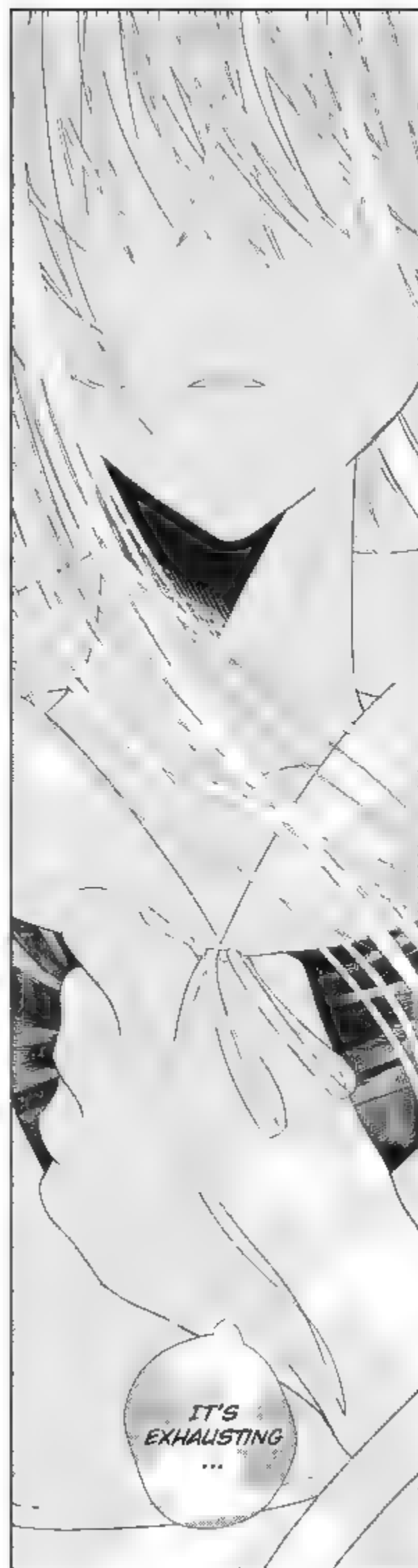
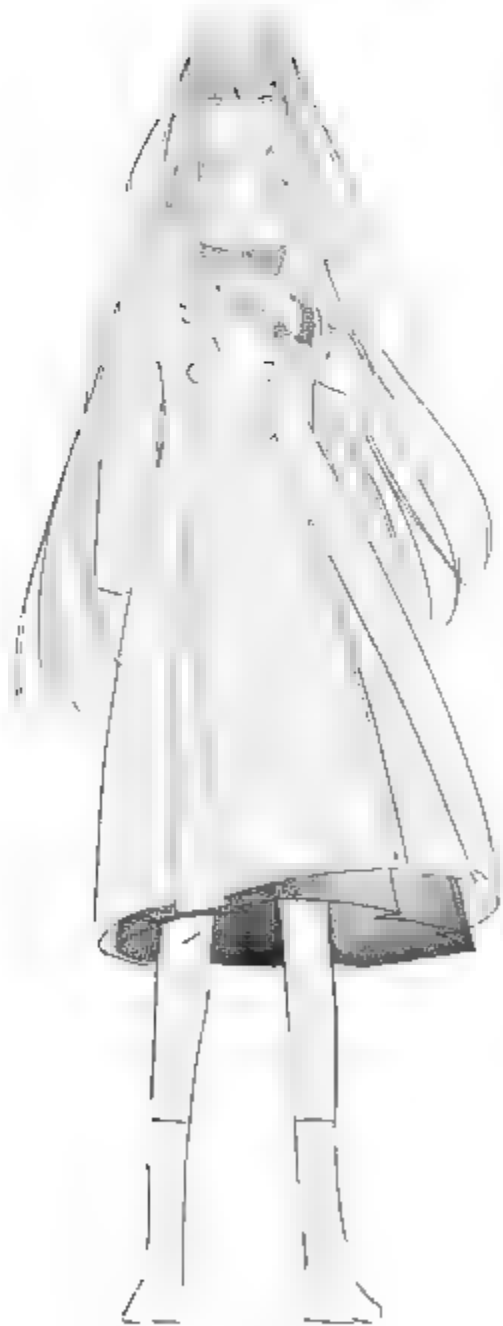
...TO THE
POINT
WHERE
IT COULD
JUST FLY
OFF.



WAS
THAT
GIRL...



IF ONLY
THIS
UNIFORM
WOULD
JUST FLY
AWAY AND
DISAPPEAR
TOO—



*Cocoon
Entwined*

BUT
AFTER I
SLIPPED
INTO THIS
UNIFORM,
THE WAY
EVERYONE
LOOKED
AT ME
CHANGED.

"PRINCE."

AFTER
SOMEONE LET
THAT WORD
OUT, IT QUICKLY
BECAME
SYNONYMOUS
WITH ME.

IT'S
ALMOST...

I LOOK
LIKE MY
GOOD-LOOKING
OLDER
BROTHER,
SO EVER
SINCE MIDDLE
SCHOOL, I'VE
SOMEHOW
ENDED UP
PLAYING
THAT KIND
OF ROLE.

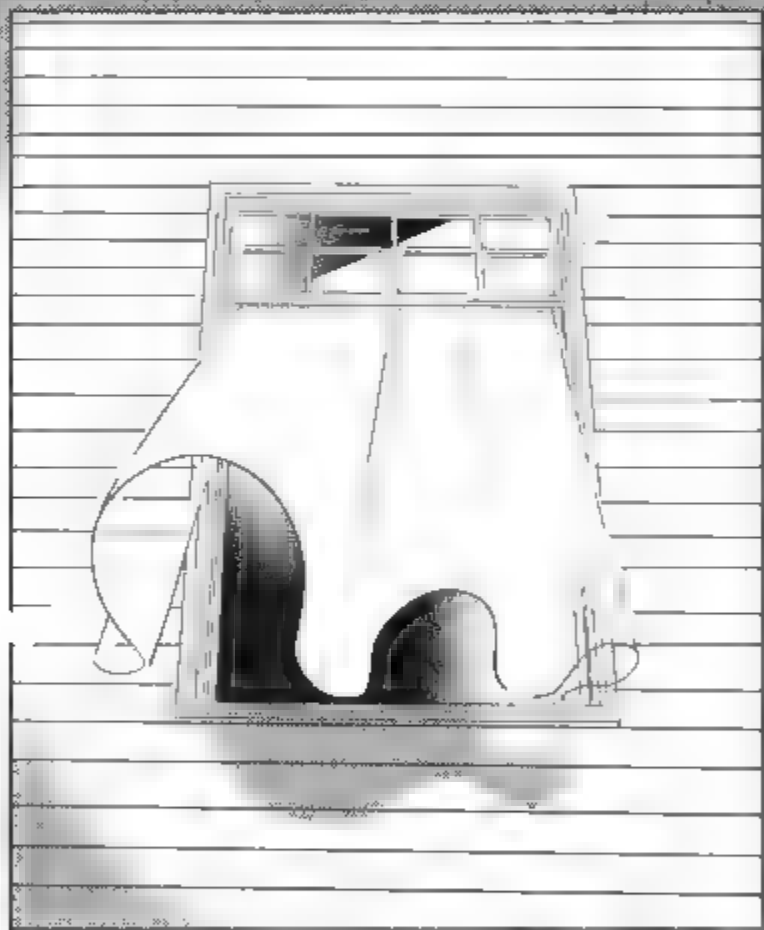
PEOPLE
OFTEN SAID,
"SAEKI-SAN
IS SO COOL,
ISN'T SHE?"

I DIDN'T
DISLIKE
HEARING
THAT AS LONG
AS I COULD
ENJOY AN
EASY SCHOOL
LIFE, IT DIDN'T
MATTER TO
ME.

...AS IF
THIS UNIFORM
TRANSFORMS
ME INTO A
PRINCE.



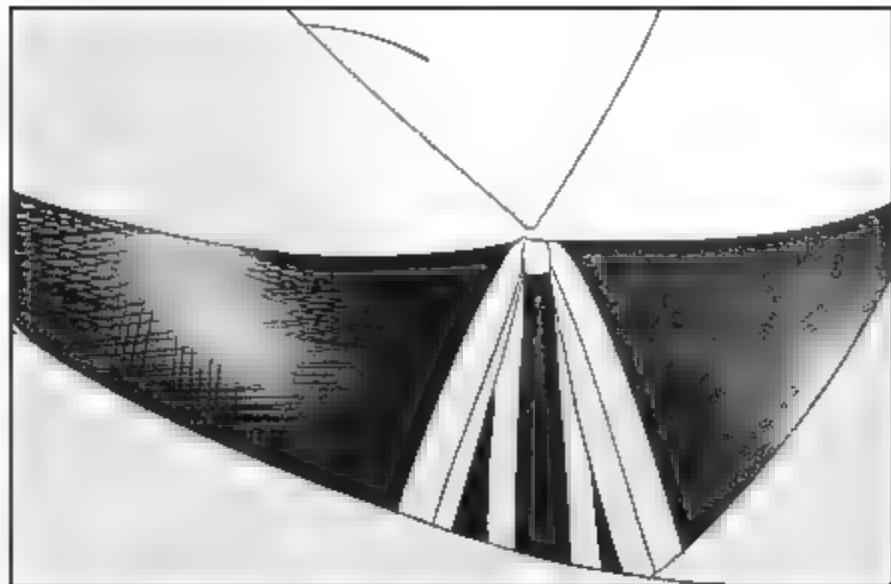












THEN...



I HAD THIS
FEELING AS
THOUGH I
COULD RUN
FAR, FAR
AWAY.



...WANNA
RUN AWAY
FROM HERE
WITH ME?



HEY,
LOOK!



NIKO
(GRIND)

SHE
JUST
SMILED
AT US!!



WHAT?
NO WAY!
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

I'VE ONLY
SEEN THEM
ON TV. THEIR
HAIR REALLY
IS LONG.

AREN'T
THOSE
HOSHIMIYA
ACADEMY
STUDENTS?

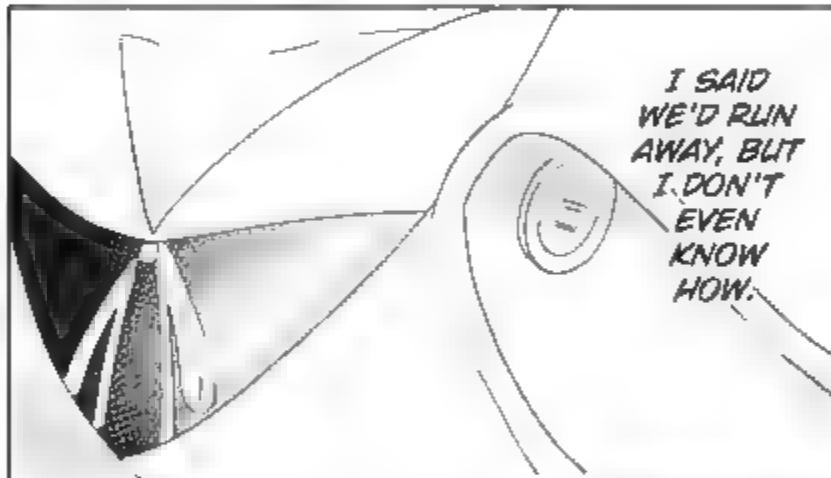


WHO
WOULD'VE
THOUGHT
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN WOULD
ACTUALLY
COME WITH
ME...?

WE'VE
BEEN
RIDING THE
TRAIN FOR
AN HOUR
AND A
HALF.....

CHIRA
(GLANCE)
CHIRA
CHIRA

SO THIS
IS THE
GENERAL
REACTION
WE GET,
HUH...?





...AND
GOT MY
HOPES
UP A
LITTLE.....

ONCE WE
REACHED
THE LAST
STOP...



HEY,
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN.



NOT
EVEN
TWO
THOUSAND
YEN.?

I
SHOULD
TELL HER
WE'D
BETTER
GO BACK,
AFTER
ALL.



...I THOUGHT
MAYBE SOME-
THING WOULD
CHANGE...BUT I
GUESS NOT.



THIS
HUMBLE
ESCAPE



ARE YOU
THIRSTY?
I'LL POP
OVER THERE
AND BUY
SOMETHING.



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?



THE
DOWNTOWN
DISTRICT
I'M SICK OF
SEEING.



HOW
CAN SHE
LOOK SO
EXCITED
BY IT?

IT MAKES
ME—THE
ONE WHO
WHISKED
HER
AWAY...

...FEEL LIKE A REAL PRINCE.



BA
(FWOOP)

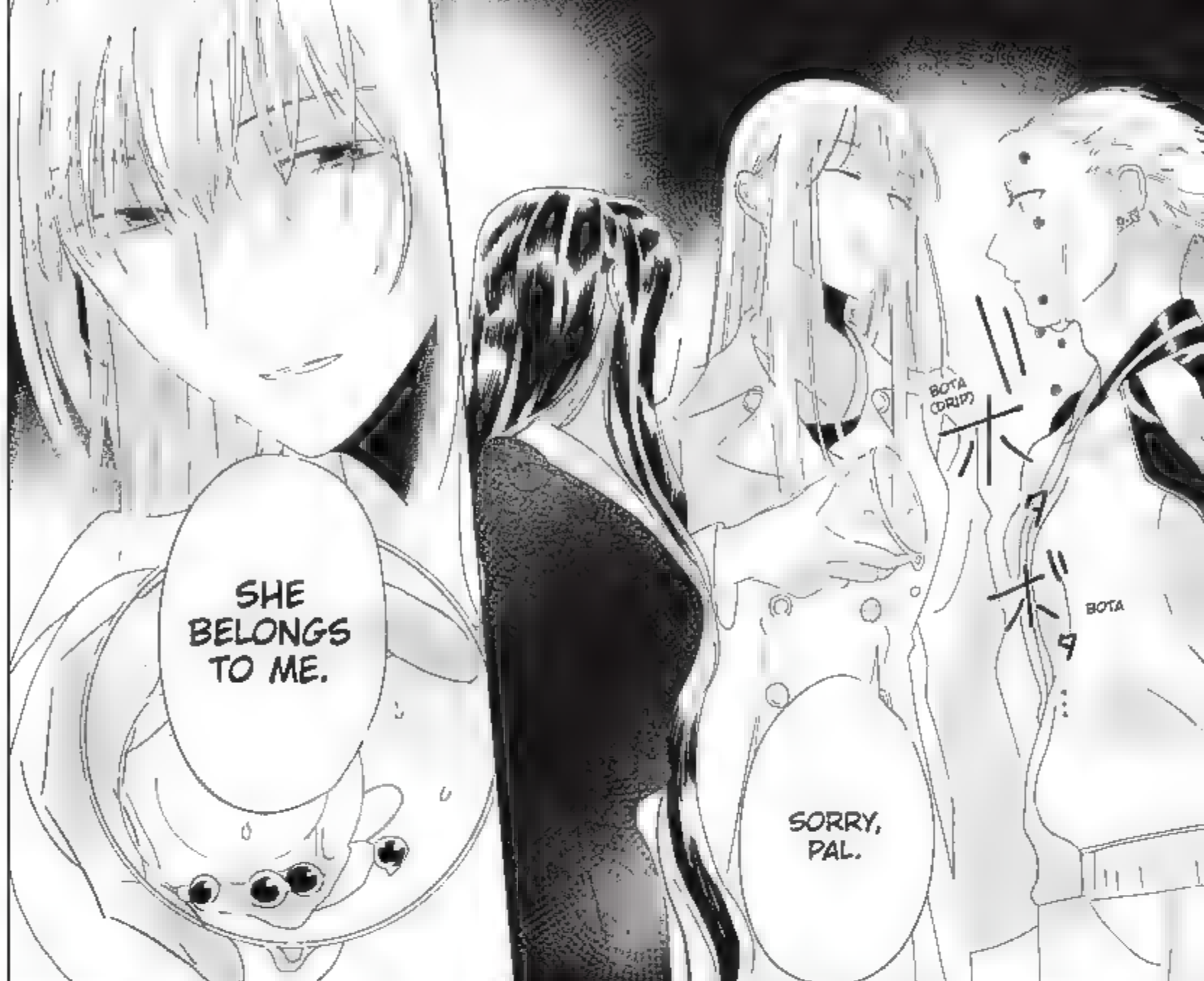


YOU
WAITING
FOR
SOME-
BODY?

HEY
THERE,
AREN'T
YOU A
HOSHIMIYA
GIRL?



WOULD
HOSHIMIYA-
SAN DRINK
THINGS LIKE
THIS?





WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?



WHERE
ELSE?




...AND
FARTHER
...



WE'RE
GOING
FARTHER
...



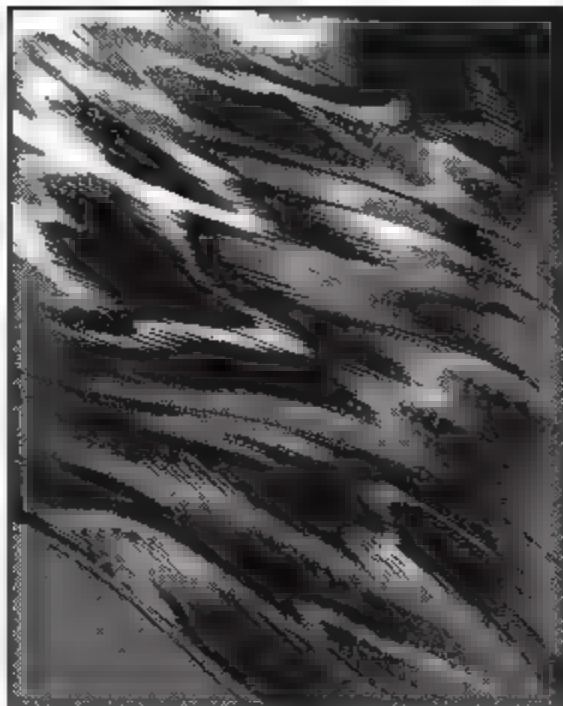
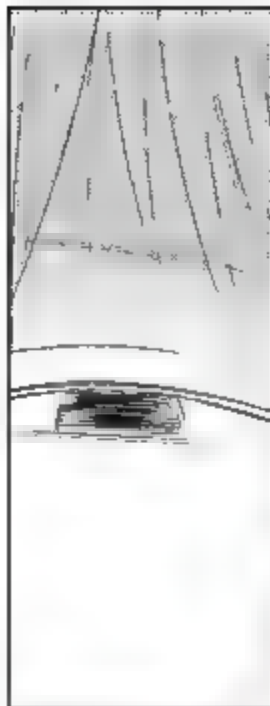
...AWAY.



IT
TRULY...



...DOES
FEEL LIKE I
COULD RUN
FAR, FAR
AWAY.



WHAT
IS IT?



...THIS
MIGHT SOUND
FAKE, BUT...

NO...

COMING
FROM
ME...

COMING
FROM
THE PRI—



THEN WILL
YOU TAKE
ME AWAY?

...YOU
REALLY DID
SEEM LIKE YOU
WERE GOING
TO GO OFF
SOMEWHERE...
THAT'S WHY
I.....

TO A
PLACE
EVEN THE
UNIFORMS
WON'T
REACH.



I'LL
TAKE
YOU—

...FOR
YOU,
I CAN
BECOME
A REAL
ONE. I'M
CERTAIN
OF IT.

I'M
SORRY

ALL
RIGHT.

EVEN
IF A
PRINCE
IS SOME-
THING
CREATED
BY
SOME-
ONE...



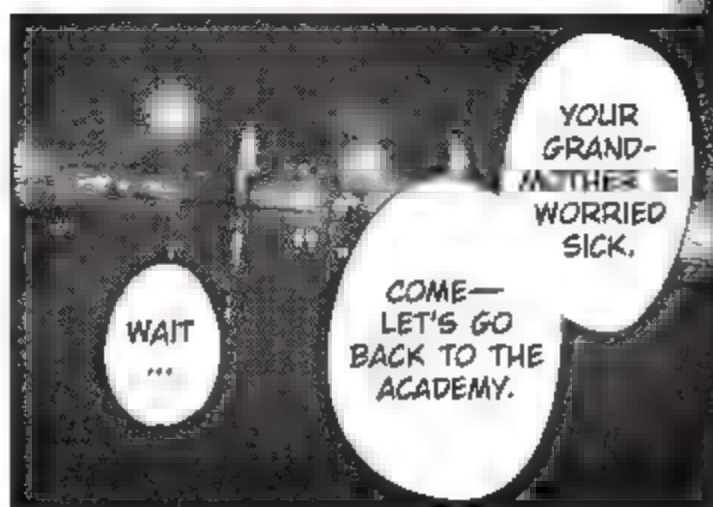
I COULDN'T
RUN
ANYWHERE,
AFTER ALL.



YOUNG
MISS.



WE
LOOKED
ALL OVER
FOR YOU.



WAIT
...

COME—
LET'S GO
BACK TO THE
ACADEMY.

YOUR
GRAND-
~~FATHER~~
WORRIED
SICK.



FORGET
WHAT I
SAID.....





COME
TO THINK
OF IT...

YOU GO
HOME TOO.
BE CAREFUL
ON YOUR
WAY.



...THAT
UNIFORM OF
YOURS—IT'S
SUFFOCATING,
YES?



DO
YOU HAVE
SCISSORS
?

YEAH...



YOUNG
MISS!?



...OR
LEAVE
IT. THE
CHOICE IS
YOURS.



IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
STAY AT THE
ACADEMY,
THEN USE
THIS.....



GOOD
NIGHT, MY
PRINCE.



SWISH



IT WAS
A FUN
DREAM.

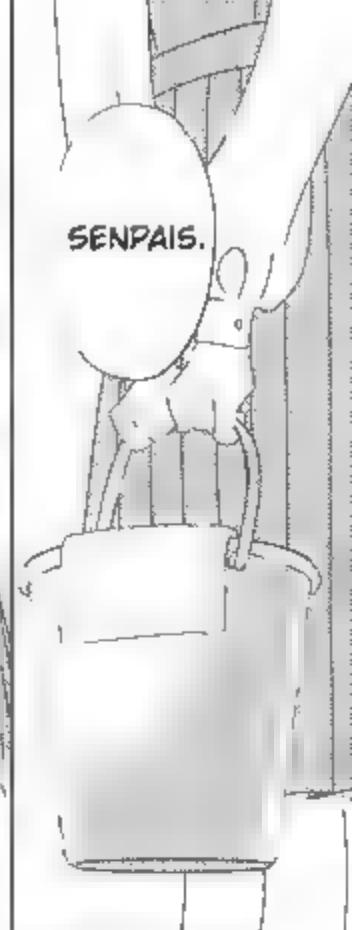




I DON'T
NEED IT
ANYMORE.

*Cocoon
Entwined*







IT'S
SAEKI-
SAN...



...HER
PRECIOUS
ADMIRERS,
THE DORM
PRINCESSES
...



THE
JERK WHO
PUSHED HER
CLEANING
ONTO ME
IS ONE OF
THEM.



SERVES
YOU
FANGIRLS
RIGHT.

...AND
THEN THE
FANGIRLS WHO
CAN'T ENTER
THEIR LITTLE
CIRCLE.



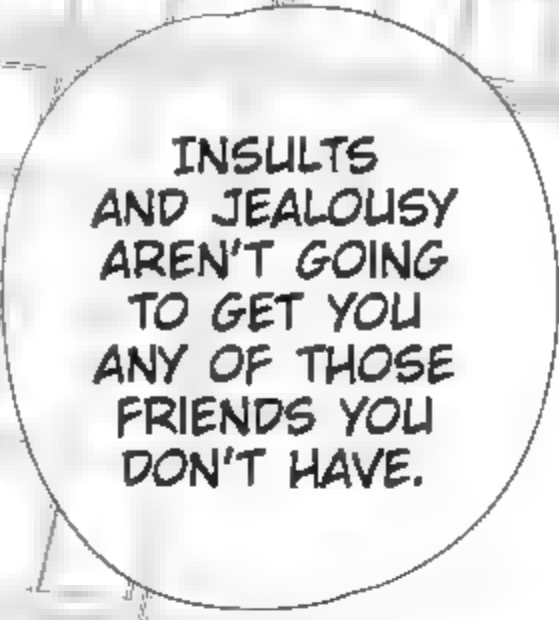
IF THEY
SLACK TOO
MUCH, I'LL
GIVE THEM A
WARNING.

BUT
ENOUGH
ABOUT
THEM ...



...ONLY FOR
HER TO GET
SNATCHED
AWAY BY THE
DORM GIRLS'
ELEGANT TEA
PARTY. POOR
THINGS!

THEY
REDID THE
HAIR DURING
CLEANING TIME
FOR SAEKI-
SAN...




INSULTS
AND JEALOUSY
AREN'T GOING
TO GET YOU
ANY OF THOSE
FRIENDS YOU
DON'T HAVE.



I
SEE.

AH!



THIS IS
WHY THEY
CALL YOU THE
NAGGER!



DOESN'T
LOOK
THAT WAY
TO ME.

I HAVE
A FRIEND
OR
TWO.....

ARGH!
SHUT
UP!



YOU SHOULD
BE. I CAN LET YOU
GET AWAY WITH IT
BECAUSE WE GREW
UP TOGETHER, BUT
YOU CAN'T TALK
LIKE THAT TO
OTHER GIRLS.



SORRY.







SHE
EXISTS.

YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY
HAIR, YOKOZAWA-SAN.



DIDN'T YOU
MENTION IT TO
ME BEFORE?
THAT, THE ONE
TIME YOU TWO
SPOKE, SHE
KEPT TALKING
TO YOU EVEN
WHEN YOU GOT
VENOMOUS.

SH-SHE
SAYS THOSE
THINGS TO
EVERYONE.
SHE'S JUST
BEING NICE.



WH-WHY?

YOU
SHOULD BE
FRIENDS
WITH HER.



THAT
REMINDS
ME—
SAEKI-
SAN.

HUM?
OH, UH,
WHAT?



SHE'S
REAL
SHALLOW
LIKE THAT.



IF SAYING
THAT WILL
MAKE YOU
WANT TO
CRY...



I
BET SHE
DOESN'T
EVEN
REMEMBER
WHAT SHE
SAID.

IF SAYING
THINGS SHE
DOESN'T MEAN
WILL LEAD
PEOPLE ON,
SHE'LL DO IT.
THAT'S HOW
SHE IS.

NO,
THAT'S
DEFINITELY
ALL IT
WAS..

YEAH,
THAT'S
PROBABLY
WHAT IT
WAS...



...THEN
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
SAY IT.



SORRY.



YEAH. I'M
OKAY AS
LONG AS I
HAVE YOU.



ARE YOU
COMFORTING
ME?



DON'T
WORRY...

...BECAUSE I WON'T WISH FOR
ANYTHING MORE THAN THIS.



HAVE
YOU SEEN
SAEKI-SAN? I
NEED HER TO
COME BY THE
OFFICE.

SHE'S
OVER
—

YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR SAEKI-
SAN?

EXCUSE
ME,
GIRLS.



I HAD A
QUESTION
ABOUT
TODAY'S
CLASSICS
LESSON...

YOKOZAWA-
SAN, COULD
YOU GO CALL
FOR HER?

WAIT
—!



YOKOZAWA-
SAN SAID SHE
JUST SAW
HER.

HUH?



Got
you
back.









"YOKO-
ZAWA-
SAN"...



...
RIGHT?



SORRY, I
FORGOT.



OH
YEAH.

I ASKED
YOU TO
MEET ME
AFTER
SCHOOL
TODAY.





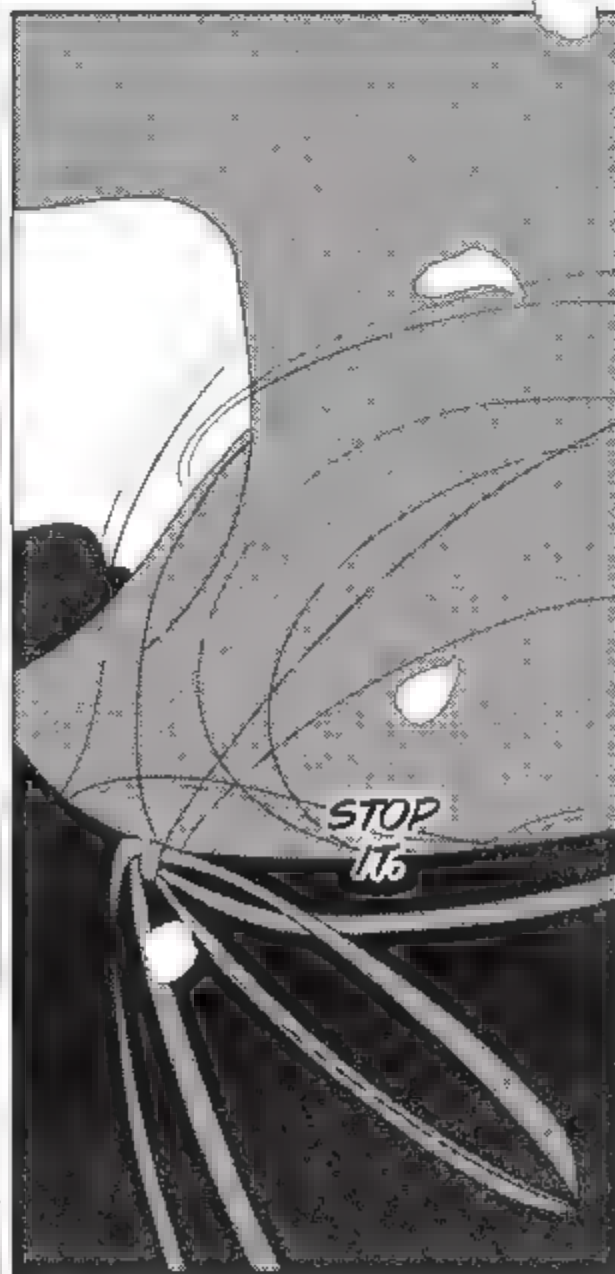
I WANTED
TO TALK TO
YOU THAT DAY.
THAT'S WHY
I CALLED OUT
TO YOU.



OH, I
REMEMBER
IT CLEARLY.



STOP.



...I'LL
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA.





*Cocoon
Entwined*





ONE WEEK
AFTER THE
HIGH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY—





SAEKI-
SAN...!



YOU'D
NORMALLY
SAY HI...

...IN THESE
SITUATIONS,
RIGHT...?



OH.....
RIGHT.



N-NO
WAY...!

SHE'S
NEVER
ON THE
TRAIN
AT THIS
TIME...



WE DID
TECHNICALLY
START
TALKING ON
MEASURING
DAY...IT'LL
BE FI—



I
ALMOST
GOT
AHEAD OF
MYSELF
.....

...
RIGHT.
THAT'S
OBVIOUSLY
ALL IT
WAS.

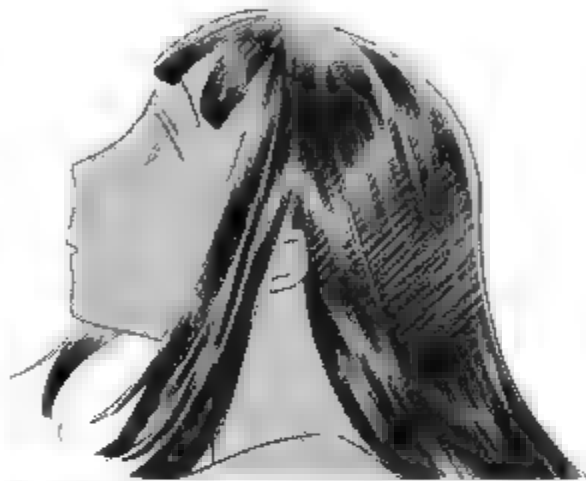
SHE WAS
JUST BEING
NICE.



POW
(CREAK)
#

The
train...

I SHOULD
GET AWAY
FROM HERE
BEFORE
SHE SEES
ME.....



DON
(THUMP)

...will
experience
swaying
ahead.
Please be
careful.



Standing
passengers,
please hold
on to the
grab handles
or handrails.

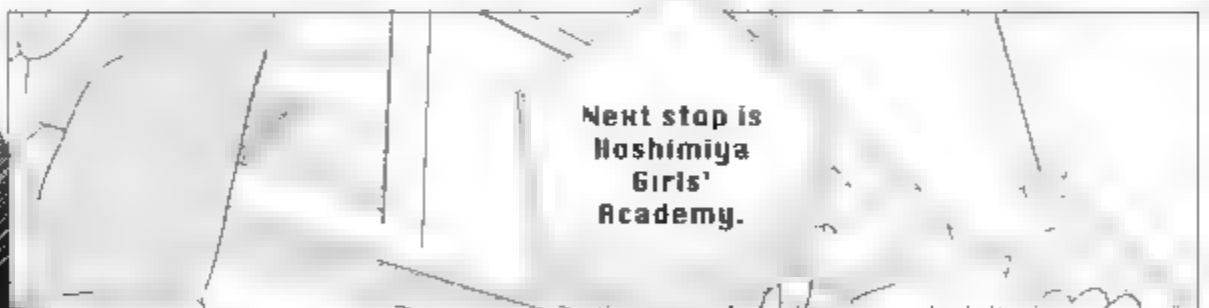




AND MY
SHOES AND
BAG ARE
FRESHLY
POLISHED
TOO...



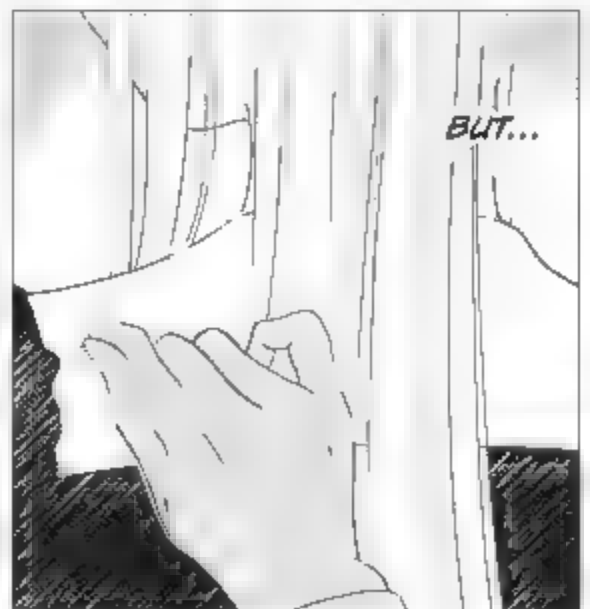
MY
HAIR...
LOOKS
FINE...



Next stop is
Hoshimiya
Girls'
Academy.

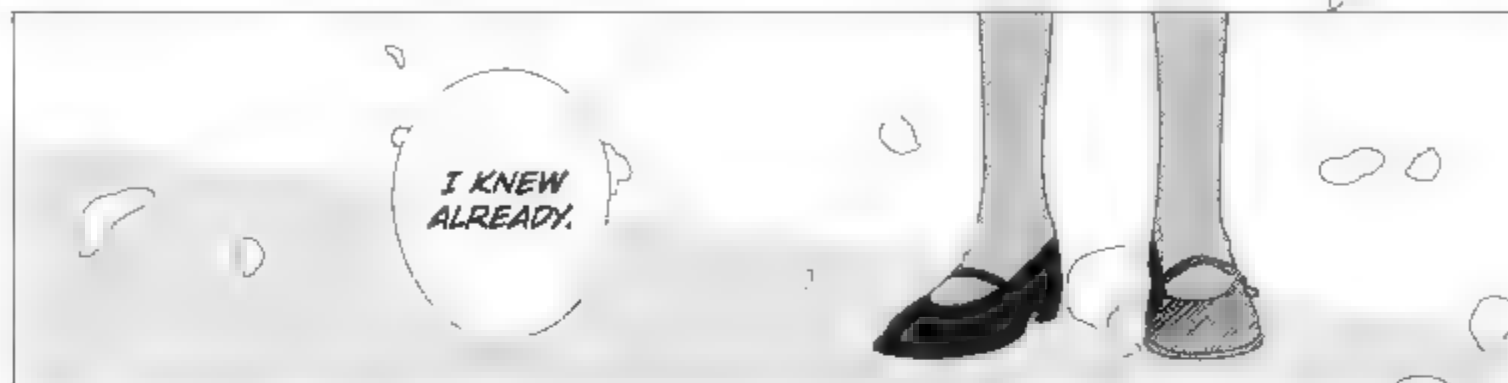
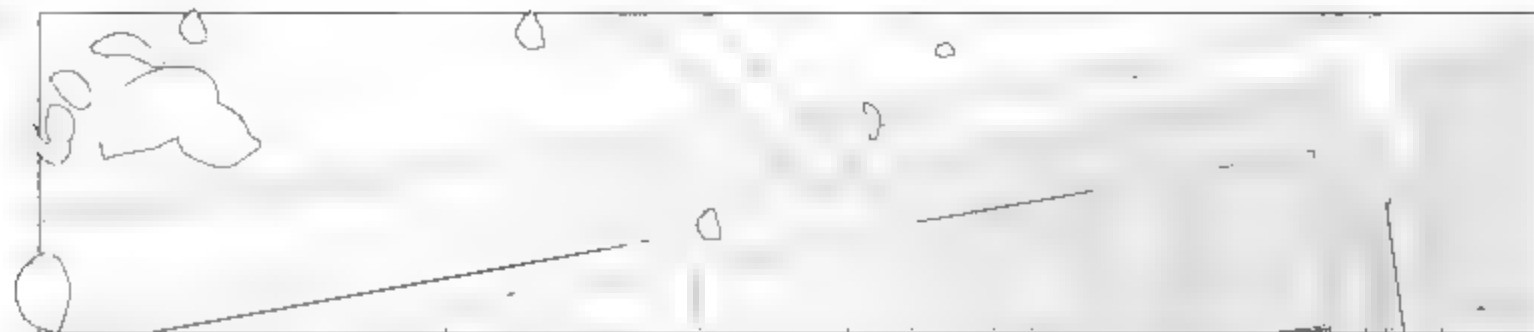


...IF SHE
REALLY
DOES
REMEMBER
...



BUT...







I DON'T NEED YOUR ...





OH, I
SHOULD BE
THANKING
YOU.



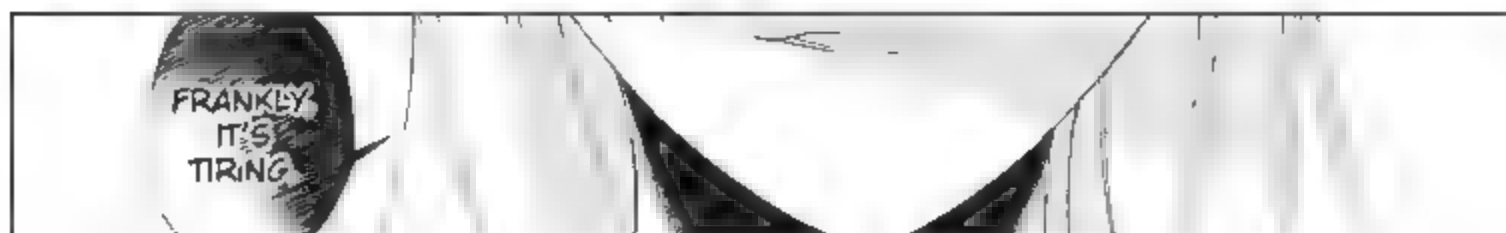
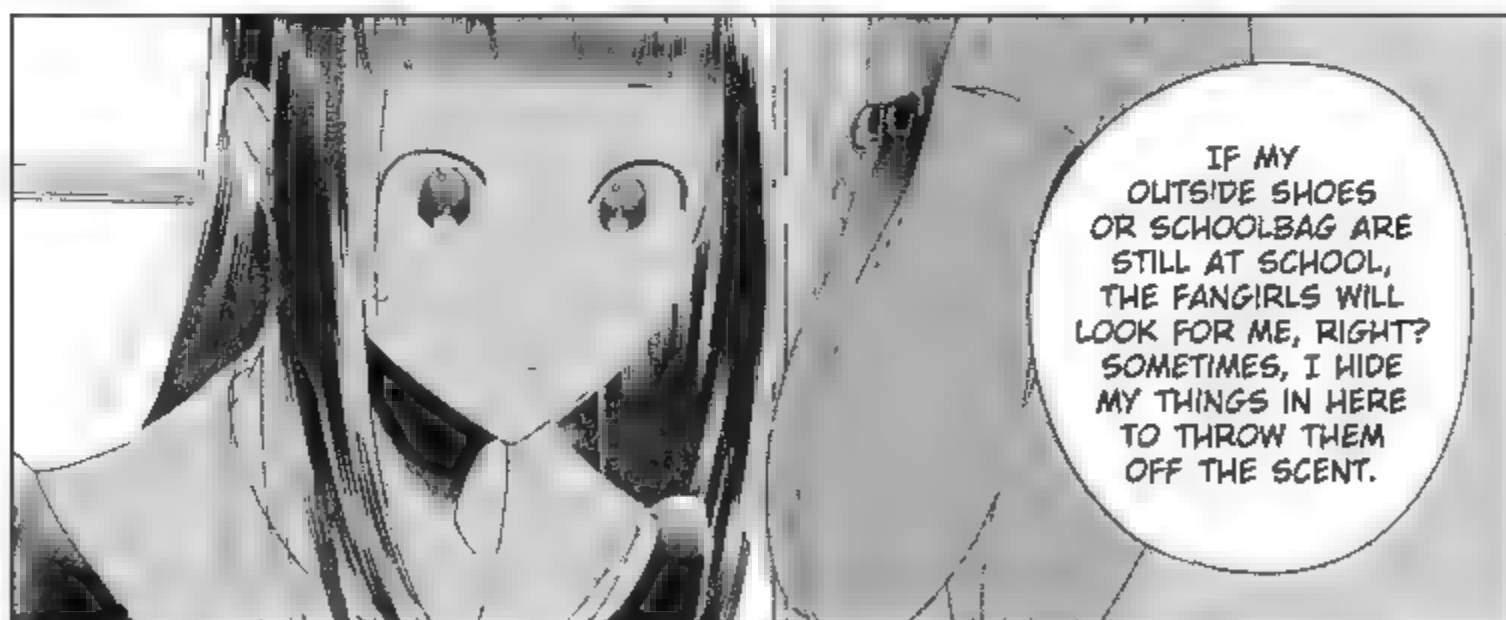
I WAS
SORT OF
HOPING FOR
AN EXCUSE
TO SLIP
AWAY...

...SO I
WAS HAPPY
WHEN YOU
SHOWED UP
FOR ME.



MOREOVER
...

I...I DID
AS I WAS
ASKED...
THAT'S
ALL...





W—



WELL...



HUH?

BY THE WAY,
WHY DID YOU
SAY SOMETHING
ABOUT NOT
REMEMBERING
BACK THERE?



I WAS...
REALLY CLOSE
TO YOU, BUT
YOU...DIDN'T
NOTICE ME, SO
I THOUGHT...

.....A LITTLE
WHILE AFTER
THE ENTRANCE
CEREMONY, WE
ENDED UP.....
ON THE SAME
TRAIN...




WHAT,
THAT'S
ALL?



FOR ME,
IT'S A
HUGE
PROBLEM
!



YOU
SHOULD'VE
SAID
SOMETHING!



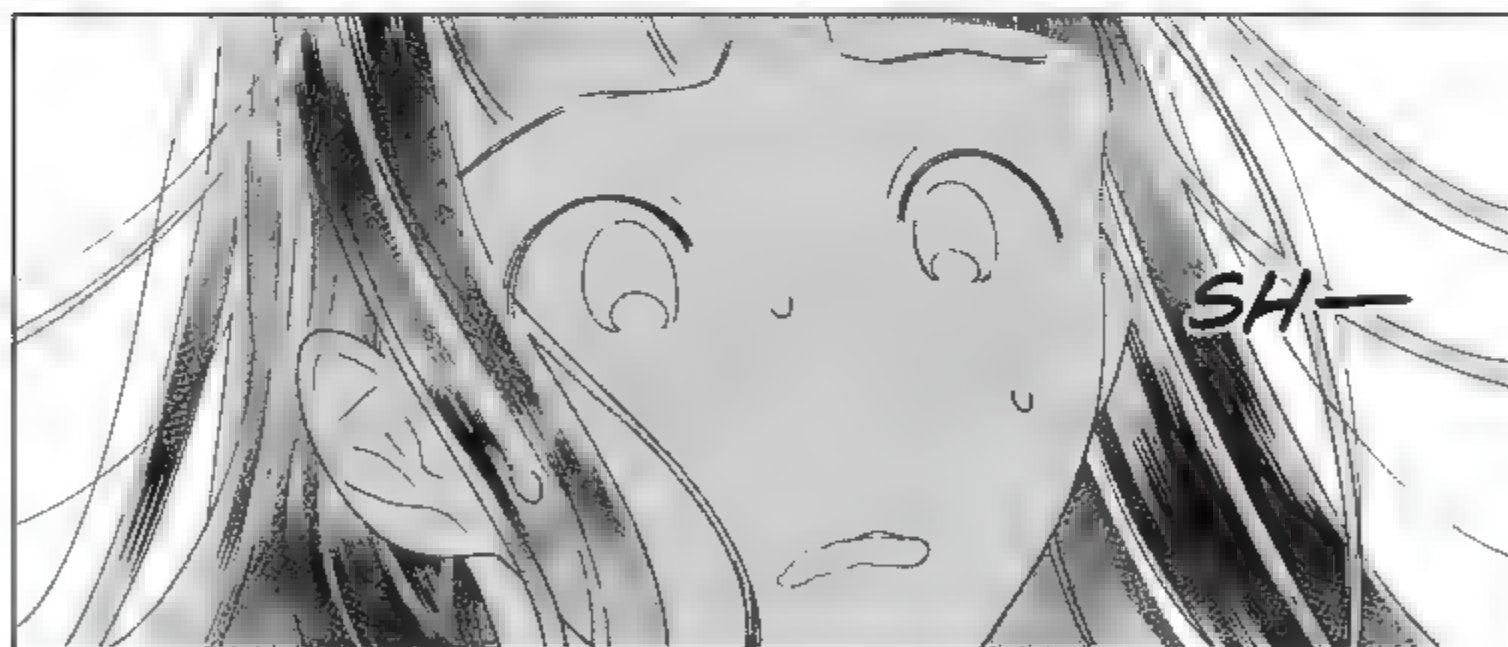
IT'S NOT
LIKE I WAS
FAR AWAY,
RIGHT?



IT'S
NOT THAT
HARD!



THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
THINK.



SHOOT.....
I BLURTED
IT OUT.....



YOU REALLY
ARE ONE OF
A KIND,
YOKOZAWA-
SAN.

HA
HA
HA!



ONE OF
A KIND?
WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO .?

HA
HA
H

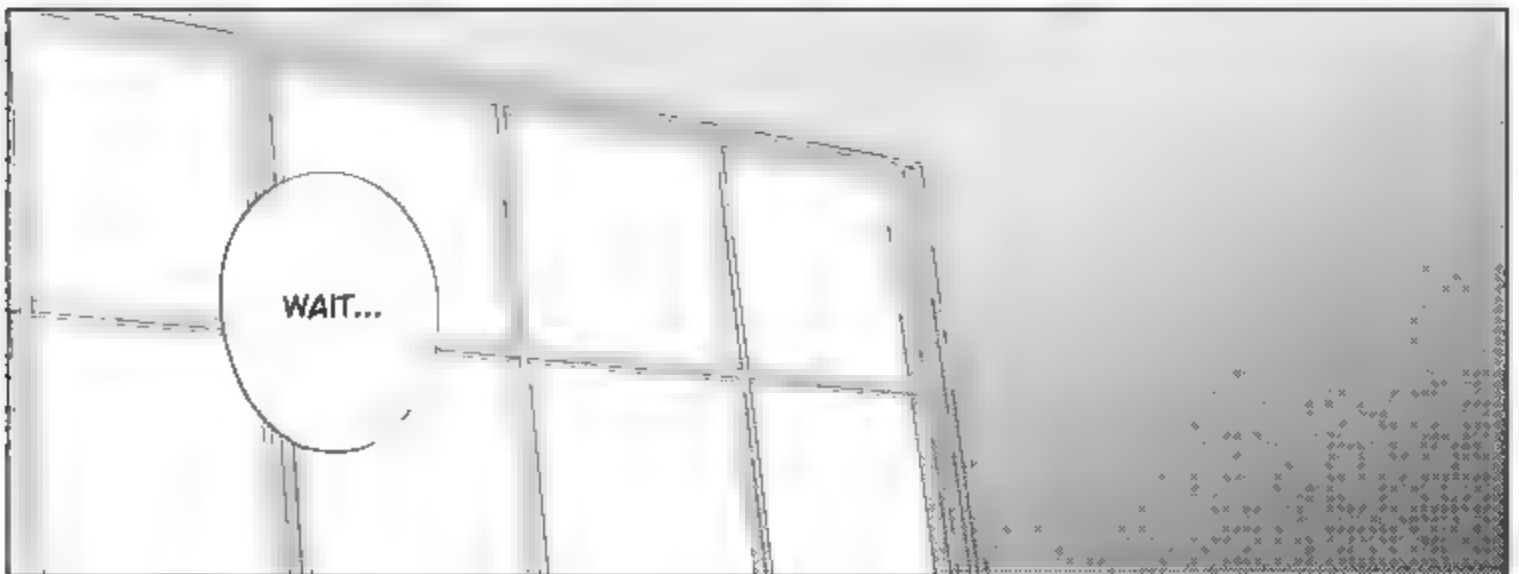


SORRY...
THAT TEA
PARTY LEFT
ME BEAT...
I CAN'T
ANYMORE...

HUH!?



IF I
OFFENDED
YOU, I
APOLOGIZE.





HUH?
WHAT DO
PEOPLE DO IN
SITUATIONS
LIKE THIS...?
AH...I...
I KNOW.



HEY,
YOU CAN'T
JUST FALL
A—



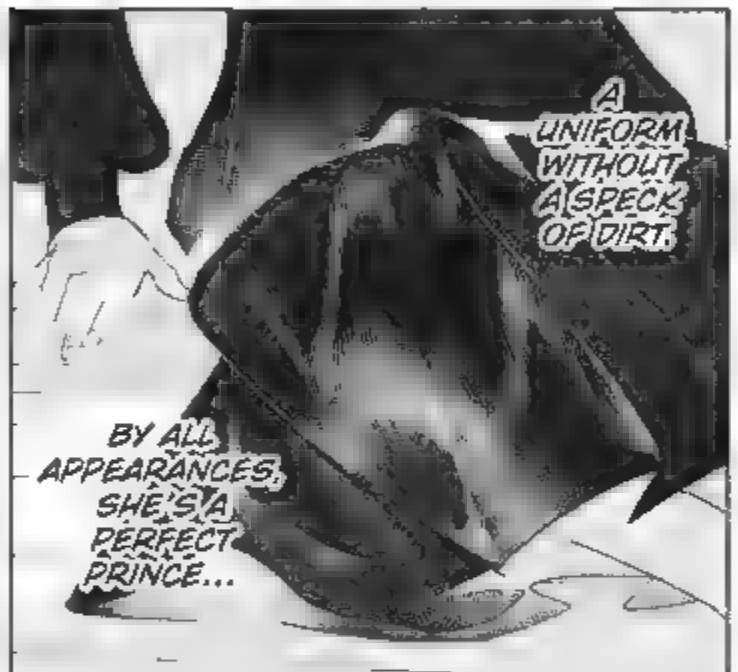
HER DARK
CIRCLES
LOOK REALLY
BAD...

SHE'S
CLOSE...!



NEATLY
TRIMMED
NAILS.

WELL-
GROOMED
HAIR
WITHOUT
A SINGLE
DAMAGED
STRAND.



A
UNIFORM
WITHOUT
A SPECK
OF DIRT.

BY ALL
APPEARANCES,
SHE'S A
PERFECT
PRINCE...



...WHICH
MAKES
HER DARK
CIRCLES...
LIKE A SPOT
ON CLEAN
SHEETS...

...STICK OUT
WHETHER
YOU LIKE IT
OR NOT.



TO GO
TO THESE
LENGTHS...SHE
MUST WANT
TO RUN AWAY
FROM IT ALL,
DEEP DOWN...

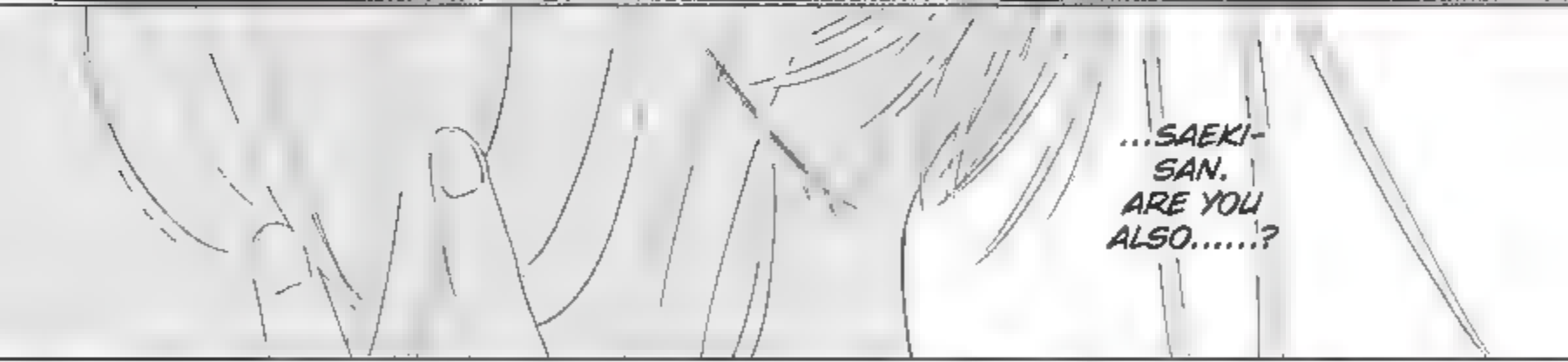


...BUT SHE
STILL TOOK
PART IN THEIR
TEA PARTY
WITHOUT
SHOWING A
SINGLE SIGN...





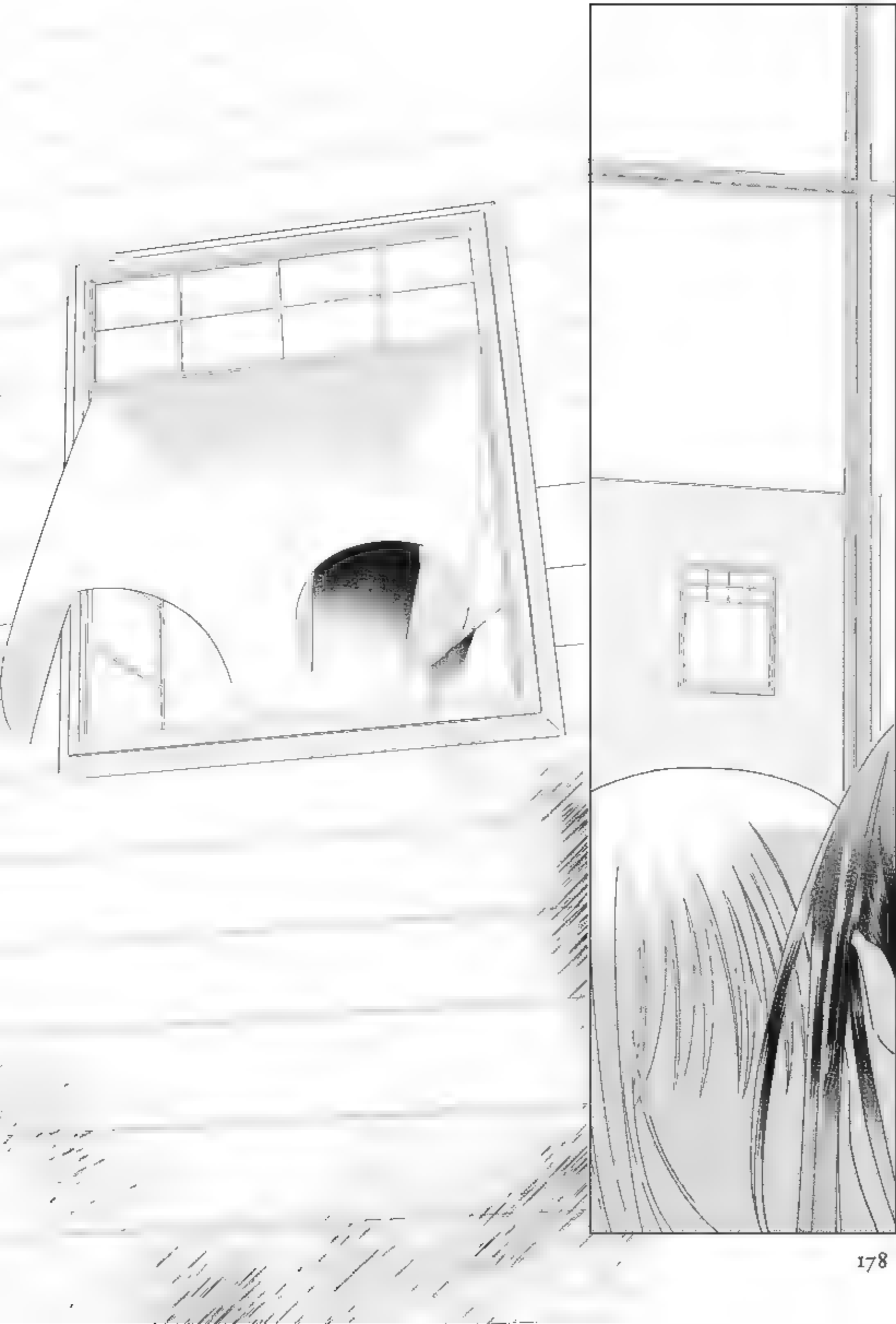
TELL
ME...



...SAEKI-
SAN.
ARE YOU
ALSO.....?







However.....

*No one
can know
these sweet,
small
secrets.*

*Feelings that
can't be put
into words.
Lips that
couldn't help
but touch.*

To be continued in Volume 2...

**Art
Assistance**

*Ryousuke Kaneko
Hakō Suganuma*

**Uniform Design
Assistance**

*Shouko Shiga
Junko Shiga
Utako Nakamura*

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-onee-sama: An extremely respectful way of referring to one's older sister or an older woman.

-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced co-workers.

PAGE 10

The class helper, or *nicchoku*, is in charge of tasks that can range from cleaning, distributing food to students during lunch, and taking attendance to assisting the teacher with the day's activities.

PAGE 16

The Japanese phrase for "deepest love" Yokozawa uses is *hyakunen no koi*, or "a love that lasts a hundred years."

Cocoon 1 Entwined

Yuriko Hara

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Erin Hickman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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